Admiralty War Diaries

1-10-41 to 31-12-41
cont'd from Reel K-11-B

cont'd on Reel K-13-B

Admiralty War Diaries

1-10-41 to 31-12-41

cont'd from Reel K-11-B

cont'd from Reel K-12-B

MOST SECRET

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B's. in action.

M.T.B's. 44, 45, 218 and 219, sent to intercept an R.D.F. plot of several vessels which left Boulogne N.E. at 1812, made contact several times between 2000 and 2220 in poor visibility. Enemy probably included a large magnetic minesweeper accompanied by several trawlers and R boats. M.T.B. 45 unsuccessfully attacked the minesweeper; other M.T.B's did not sight a suitable target. They sustained no casualties but some superficial damage.

C.S.10 bombards Vardo.

C.S.10 (KENYA) operating from Murmansk with BEDOUIN and INTREPID reports that she searched the coast and fiords (yesterday) as far as Nordkyn without encountering any shipping. At 0525C today she bombarded the fort and batteries at Vardo (entrance to Varanger Fiord) for 10 minutes, the Russian destroyers GROMYAISTSCHI and GROTKI also taking part.

Stores for Russia.

C.in C. H.F. considers that a deplorable state of affairs is revealed in the despatch and loading of stores for Russia which, if allowed to continue, will largely vitiate the effort being put into their safe transport.

Enemy Air Operations.

H.M.D. FISHER GIRL was sunk in Falmouth Harbour by a near miss at 2020 today.

Mining.

One Beaufort laid mines successfully off Lorient this evening and one off Brest. A second Beaufort despatched to Brest is missing.

/Bristol.....

MOST SECRET.

25.11. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining. -Contd.

Bristol Channel. — Few mines were exploded today. The ports east of Port Talbot were open from 1145 to 1900.

Atlantic.

Operation "Bedlam" — At 1239A today the Admiralty cancelled this operation and gave orders that S.S. ILE D'OUESSANT and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER were not to be interfered with.

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN. — At 1633 N today DUNEDIN, on patrol in area H.34 C, had not answered signals for over 12 hours and it is feared she may have been disabled or sunk by U/B. BRIDGEWATER has been ordered to search.

Mediterranean.

Tunis — The policy of attacking all shipping at sea by night off the Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside territorial waters, was reaffirmed by Admty. 1551A/15 to Flag Officers concerned. Warning was given to the French in March 1941 that ships engaged in military operations would be attacked in all waters south of 35° 46' N. owing to the persistent use of French territorial waters by the enemy.

/Minesweepers.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

Minesweepers. Details of L.L. and S.A. minesweepers to reinforce Mediterranean Station were communicated in Admty. 2303A/25.

Libya and Western Desert. Tobruk Harbour had 2 bombing raids this evening without damage. The satellite aerodrome is now ready to receive aircraft.

9 Wellingtons attacked the harbour and shipping at Benghazi last night in very bad electrical storms.

East Indies.

S.S. SURCOUF intercepted. Early this morning, CORNWALL intercepted French S.S. SURCOUF northbound with foodstuffs and rum in 7° 17' N. 52° 6' E. The ship stopped and signalled that she did not intend to abandon ship; a prize crew was placed on board and ship is being sent to Aden: CORNWALL is remaining within A/C R/C distance until P.M./27 and an A/S escort is being sent to meet SURCOUF near Guardafui.

Shipping in Cape-Mombassa area. C.in C. E.I. suggests that the concentration of shipping between the Cape and Mombasa renders the early provision of ocean going A/S craft desirable. Admty. had already ordered 5 corvettes to be transferred to Capetown.

Details of L.L. and S.A. minesweepers to reinforce East Indies Station were communicated in Admty. 2304A/25.

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War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Dispositions of motor minesweepers for Singapore (6), Port Swettenham (5) and Penang (6) were approved by Admiralty 1843A/25.

The near completion of preparations by Japan for operations based on Indo China, should Japanese policy so require, is indicated. The only Japanese merchant ships outside Japan and the China seas are 11 in South Seas and one in South America.

America and West Indies.

TULIP is to be transferred to Capetown as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE and will sail from Jamaica accordingly.

Dutch Guiana

U.S. troops in 4 small vessels sailed for Surinam today from Trinidad, escorted by U.S. destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Capt. D.3. — Admty 1812/24. Capt. (D) 3 should proceed to London as soon as possible today and report to A.C.O's Office, Richmond Terrace. (V.A.2., 1105/25).

SNOWFLAKE. (Corvette). — SNOWFLAKE is to join S.A. Command. On completion of working up ship to be sailed to Clyde for boiler cleaning and will be required to sail on 5/12. (C. in C. W.A., 1504A/25 to WESTERN ISLES).

A/S whalers for far north. — A/S Whalers MOLDE, BODO, NARVIK ULLSWATER, ELLESMERE required for service with C. in C. H.F. 2. They are to be taken in hand as soon as possible for fitting of Oerlikon gun, if found practicable, also fitting for cold weather, docking if due, boiler cleaning, and such defects as can be completed in the time available.
4. To sail to arrive Scapa not later than 13/12.
(A.C.N.S., H., 2038A/25 2039/25).

ROXBOROUGH. — Your 1759A/24. ROXBOROUGH will probably refit in U.S.A.
Necessary repairs are to be carried out to enable ship to proceed and date ready to sail is to be reported.
(D.O.D. H., 2214A/25 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian S/Ms. needed. — If the Russians could be persuaded to offer us the loan of 4 of their modern submarines, manned by Russians, to operate under our control it would be most welcome.
The best use for them could be found in the Western Mediterranean based on Gibraltar, but if the Russians preferred they could operate in the Bay of Biscay, or off the Norwegian Coast.
It is realised that the Russians may feel disinclined to allow their submarines to operate in areas where though helping us they are not directly furthering their own war effort, but on the other hand they may be ready to co-operate in this way with us.
Request you will use your discretion and if you feel the moment is propitious will approach the Russians with this suggestion.
(V.C.N.S., 1719A/25 to Ad. Miles).

/LEDA....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.11.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

LEDA. LEDA is not to remain at Archangel as W/T link if any danger exists of her being frozen in observing that icebreaker may not be available when required. If LEDA is obliged to sail alternative communication will be arranged. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2225C/25 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Defence of the U.K.

Scapa Defences. R.A. Scapa's 2015/16 and 2015/23. In view of the damage by weather to Booms and Indicator loops and the difficulty which is being experienced in effecting the necessary repairs it appears desirable to augment patrols. If desired and subject to concurrence of C. in C. W.A. up to one flotilla of 110 foot M.L's could be temporarily diverted from Troon. Request your views. (A.C.N.S. H., 1211A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Faeroes A/A Defences. A.L.M. 014437/41 of 18 Nov. I do not concur in Bofors guns being allocated to Klagsvig. Skaale Fiord is by far the most important military objective in the islands. The (?dismantled) additional Bofors should be sited at Skaale Fiord and the Vickers mark VIII thus displaced should be sited for protection of Thorshavn and shipping as decided by Fortress Commander. (A.C.O.S., 1228A/25 to Admty).

Movements.

KENYA. Arrived Murmansk KENYA, BEDOUIN, INTREPID, GROMKI, GREMYASHTCHWICK.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0931C/25)

LOBELIA. Arrived LOBELIA with Admiral Muselier. Vessel has defects. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1019A/25). My 1714A/24. and Oban's 1019A/25. LOBELIA sailed from Oban at 2330. E.T.A. Iceland 1300/28. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2357A/25).

TRIDENT. (1) TRIDENT is to leave patrol routed through following positions to R/V with LOCH MONTEITH in 060° 48' N., 0° 32' W., at 1000A/27 for onward escort to Blyth.
(2) TRIDENT to dive by day whilst East Meridian Greenwich there-after proceed on the surface at C.O's discretion. (Capt. S.9., 1031A/25 to TRIDENT)

/MINERVE....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

MINERVE. F.O.S. 1546A/24. Request MINERVE may be sailed P.M./25 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH to position 061° 30' N., 000° 00' or until 1800A/26 whichever is the sooner thence MINERVE diving by day through 061° 57' N., 002° E. to patrol position 062° N., 004° 13' E.
(Capt. S.9., 1053/25 to A.C.O.S.)
Proceed unescorted diving by day to patrol in accordance with A.C.O.S., 1807A/25. LOCH MONTEITH has been ordered to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9., 1231A/25 to MINERVE)
Intend to sail MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Scapa at 1800/25 passing 10 miles east of Fair Isle thence in accordance with Capt. S.9 1053A/25. (A.C.O.S., 1625A/25).
Sailed MINERVE escorted by LOCH MONTEITH in accordance with my 1625/25/(A.C.O.S., 1805A/25)

SHEFFIELD. Scapa departure SHEFFIELD. (A.C.O.S., 1115A/25)

Floating Crane. Intend to sail Floating Crane in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN (in charge) DANUBE VI, and STALWART escorted by A/S Trawlers ULLSWATER and LADY ROSEMARY, at 1200/26 for Clyde. Code word "Scent".
2. Route "C" as in D.C.I. No. 33 as far as Lizard, thence by Standard route to Clyde, with route by Q.Z.S. 300 if this can be made in daylight, or by Q.Z.S. 301 in darkness.
3. Estimated S. of A. 3 to 4 knots according to weather.
5. ULLSWATER and LADY ROSEMARY will be relieved in vicinity of St. Govan's Head to return to Plymouth. Code word "Scent" 1 category IV.
6. Tug STALWART will break off, weather permitting, coal at Falmouth, and rejoin tow with utmost despatch. She will also do this at Milford Haven, thereafter as directed by C. in C. W.A. Endurance 5 days only.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1911/25).

Operations.

Vardo bombarded. My 1531C/23. Search of coast and fjords as far as Nordkyn (?was) carried out without encountering any shipping. Fort and batteries at Vardo were bombarded for 10 (?minutes) at 0525C/25. Result could not be observed. U.S.S.R. Destroyers GROMYAISTSCHI and GROTKI took part.
(F.O.C. 10 C.S. 0414Z/25).

/East...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

East Coast Patrols.

M/S and A/P Patrols for 25/11 as in my 1027/24. Except for H.V. read FIREFLY and STOUR. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1003A/25).

Iceland-Faeroes and Denmark Straits Patrols.

Your 1314N/24. Approved. (A.C.N.S. H., 1157A/25 to C. in C. H.F.) Following movements are to take place on 27/11.
(a) On completion of practice EDINBURGH to Iceland - Faeroes patrol and SUFFOLK to Denmark Straits patrol.
(b) KENT to leave patrol at 2200Z and proceed Scapa.
(c) CUMBERLAND to leave patrol at 2000Z and return to Hvalfiord passing inside Q.Z.X.+ 241. (C. in C. H.F., 1449A/25).
Patrols by Home Fleet ships to cover the passages between North Sea and Atlantic will in future be referred to by the following short titles:-
(a) Denmark Straits. Patrol "White".
(b) Iceland - Faeroes passage. Patrol "Black".
(ii) The (object?) of both patrols is interception of enemy surface vessels and, unless otherwise stated, it is to be assumed that they are trying to break out into the Atlantic.
(iii) Patrol "White" should normally be carried out to North Eastward of minefield particular attention being given to vicinity of ice limit.
(iv) Patrol "Black" is to be carried out in support of Northern Patrol trawler lines. If 2 ships are on patrol, the dividing line between North "Black" and South "Black" Patrol onward is to be a line drawn 235° from position 062° 30' N. 015° 15' W. (C. in C. H.F., 1451A/25).
Cancel my 1107Z/6th. Owing to present increased (?routes) in Faeroes - Iceland (?passage) request gap may be watched as in last sentence of your 1145A/3. (C. in C. H.F., 1719N/25 to A.C.O.S)

Operation "Baritone".

Intend to carry out operation "Baritone" tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1514A/25).
Patrol tonight. 2 trawlers on O.D. one. 2 M.Ls. returning to Dover from south east about 0430/26. 3 M.G.B's and 2 M.L's operating near Bullock Bank from 0100/26.
(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1821A/?-)

Light sighted.

At 1825 in position 043° Altacarry 5¼ sighted light apparently Calcium Flare. Light disappeared before ship reached position. Have circled area nothing found. Am proceeding. (BELMONT 1841A/25)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/C from VICTORIOUS. — What accommodation will be available at R.N.A.S. Hatston and Twatt for VICTORIOUS aircraft for a period commencing 30/11. (C. in C. H.F., 1235N/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Air Activity.

GREAT WESTERN, attacked on 24/11. — Steamer GREAT WESTERN, Codeword "Conflict" 3. attacked by A/C vicinity Barrels Light Buoy. 52° 08' N., 6° 24' W., at 1538/24. Attack lasted 20 minutes. Six bombs dropped. Vessel undamaged. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0923A/25)

WILLIAM BUNCE, attacked on 22/11. — (Trawler) Reports at 1800 B.S.T. 22nd, when north of the Tuskar and in Irish Territorial waters, being attacked by two enemy planes. 2 bombs dropped, and machine gunned. No damage. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1104A/25).

BLAIRNEVIS torpedoed 24/11. — Chief Salvage Officer reports BLAIRNEVIS now berthed at Great Yarmouth. Will discharge deck cargo on after deck and on arrival of FORDE will endeavour to get engine room under control with a view to vessel being towed to port with remaining cargo. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1740A/25)

FISHER GIRL (Mobile Wiping Drifter) sunk. — H.M.D. FISHER GIRL sunk in Falmouth harbour by near miss at 2020/25. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 2040/25).

Mining.

Bristol Channel. — Bristol Channel Ports East of Port Talbot will be open from 1145 until 1900 today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0954A/25).
Exploded two magnetic mines at 1403/25 and 1407/25 respectively. Details. (Capt. M/S Bristol, Channel, 1650A/25).

N.L.22. — Intend to carry out operation N.L.22 tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1551A/25).

Thames Estuary. — One S.A. Mine detonated at 1930/24 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1711/25)
Considerable enemy activity over the Thames estuary between 1900 and 1950 on night 24/25. R.D.F. plots gave a number of planes over the Barrow Deep chiefly to north eastward of B.5. buoy.
Explosions due to mines or bombs were seen in Foulness area at 1915 and 1930. Ships in

/Barrow....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Contd.

Barrow Deep heard splashes on hydrophones but direction could not be given. One fast falling object apparently without parachute was seen to fall near No. 2 Yantlet Buoy at 1930 and is strongly suspected to have been a mine. (S.O. T.L.D.F., 1742/25).
Garrison Adjutant Shoeburyness reports that at 1430 today a workman from the north end of Thames Boom reported having found on the Boom:- 1. U.X.M. or U.X.B. 2. Copper cable and floats. 3. Several parachutes. 4. Remains of three balloons.
Request mine recovery party may be sent to investigate. (C. in C. Nore, 1853A/25).

Minelaying programme.

Your 1037/24. Concur in proposed order of lays. Can programme be expedited. (C. in C. H.F., 1742N/25 to R.A.M.)
Request you will state effect on S.N. operations if SCOTT is withdrawn for other service for one month from 13/12. (A.C.N.S. H., 2141A/25 to R.A.M.)

Operation Q.O (Mine clearances).

Your 1054/21. Concur in proposed arrangements. (A.C.N.S. H., 2113A/25 to C. in C. Nore).
Your 1500/21.
1. Para. One. Concur. A further signal will be made.
2. Para 2. Concur that operations should be carried out by night only.
3. Para 3. The 20th D.F. and the Fast Minelayers are the only ships which fulfil the required conditions. The former cannot be spared from Fleet duties and the latter are not considered very suitable for operations south of Gap E. ADVENTURE has a good A/A armament and the risk from ground mines is considered to be acceptable. (A.C.N.S. H., 2114A/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Destroyer.

Bearing by D/F on unknown kc/s at 0111C/25th (enemy) destroyer was southerly Portion of Varanger Fiord (reliable fix).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0255C/25 to C.S.10).

E-boat.

Attack by E-boat on F.N.62 tonight anticipated. (C. in C. Nore, 1538A/25).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Loch Ewe. — Fairway Buoy at entrance to Loch Ewe extinguished (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0939/25 Hydrog, 1204/25).

White Sea. Ice. — During Sunday night a large area of ice containing SAN AMBROSIO with GOSSAMER alongside besides other miscellaneous craft drifting 20 miles to seaward. SAN AMBROSIO had 90 fathom cable out. (GOSSAMER, 1006C/25).

Unexamined Shoal. — Sounding of 10 fathoms has been obtained on passage in 56° 49.8' N., 6° 26.4' W., or 9.3 miles 3. 10 degrees from Ardmanurchan Point Lighthouse. (FRANKLIN, 1045/25)

Kellett Buoy. — My 1746/23 and Q. + Z.H. 995. Kellett Light Buoy is unlit as previously published. (V.A. Dover, 1050/25).

Technical.

Acoustic data. — RAMILLIES 1422/24. Request information whether RAMILLIES could arrive in daylight and pass over Inellan range twice in each direction. After passing over range on a Northerly course ship would have to pass through boom and turn inside boom before commencing run on Southerly course. The reason for this request is lack of acoustic data for ships of this size. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1725A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Demolition Charges in "Town" Destroyers. — C.A.F.O. 752/41. Until further orders on account of fire risk demolition charges in "Town" class destroyers are only to be placed if ships are ordered to operate off enemy coast: at other times charges are to be removed, unfitted and stored as separate explosives in accordance with N.M. and E.R. Attention is drawn to demolition drill book addendum number two page 28 and 31 re care in unfitting primers. (C. in C. W.A., 1728A/25).

Casualties & Defects.

CABOT sunk on 24/11. — H.M. Drifter CABOT (Wiping Unit) was sunk at her berth in Avonmouth Dock at 2300/24 in 32 feet of water by being run into by a Dredger (Port of Bristol Authorities). No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 0055/25).

LOBELIA. — Has defects. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1019A/25).

/COLLINGDOC....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

COLLINGDOC. — My 1738/24. H.N.M.S. DRAUG with COLLINGDOC in tow DANUBE V, FAIRPLAY 1 sailed for Rosyth 0915. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 0940/25).

MARAUDER (Damaged 22/11. — Your 1219A/25. MARAUDER is to be sailed as soon as possible for Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1633A/25 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

M.G.B.93 damaged. — At 0200/24 collision occurred in Loch Linnhe between M.L. 269 and M.G.B.93 during heavy squall. Damage to M.L.269 negligible. M.G.B. 93 considerably damaged forward. No injury to personnel. (ST. CHRISTOPHER, 1720A/25).

WHITEHORN. — Cancel my 1126A/25. Ship delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1809A/25).

GALT. — GALT returning to Iceland with flooded A/S compartment. (BURNHAM, 1820Z/25).

FORESIGHT, FURY. — E.T.A. 0900A/27 FURY IN company. Have following defects FORESIGHT port condenser shaft leak, FURY one dynamo cracked governor condenser. Both ships distiller pumps defective. Temporary repairs should enable both ships to proceed to Scapa after fuelling. (FORESIGHT, 2303A/25 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Shipping & Convoys.

M/Vs. to move at night. — Admiralty 1325A/24 has been passed to S.B.N.O. Archangel for information at request of Admiral Miles. (War Registry, 25/11)

W.S.14. — Following is proposed embarkation programme for W.S.14. Details. (D. of S.T., 0452A/25).

P.Q.3. BRIARWOOD. — Your 1744A/17. Is BRIARWOOD joining up with another Convoy. (Ad. Miles, 1206D/25 to Admty).

/S.L....

War Diary. 25.11.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

S.L.92. S.L.92 (Fast Section) 11 ships Cdre, 1 (one) FORESTER (S.L.) and BADSWORTH proceeding 9½ knots at 1600/25. FORESIGHT and FURY having major defects proceed direct Londonderry while BADSWORTH has orders to rejoin S.L.92 (Slow Section) after refuelling. E.T.A. Fast Section daylight 29th. Request new code word for Fast Section. (EGRET, 1245Z/25).

Loading of Convoys to Russia. A.C.I.C.s. 337/141/7 of 15 November reveals deplorable state of affairs in despatch and loading of stores for Russia which, if allowed to continue, will largely vitiate effort being put into their safe transport. That personnel should be embarked for an Arctic voyage as in CAPE RACE would also appear disgraceful.
2. Para. 36 of C.S.10 472/W 01406 of 13 November not to A.C.I.C. confirms that bad stowage of stores has occurred in previous convoys, particularly in ships loaded Glasgow.
(C. in C. H.F., 1431N/25 to Admty).

P.Q.4. Cancel my 1145C/24. In view of your 1012Z/24 minesweepers will await arrival P.Q.4. off Cape Gorodetsky. (S.O. 1st M/S F., 1459C/25 to BERWICK).

P.Q. 5. Sailing delayed owing to requirements of coal, oil, and water by several ships. MERIDIAN and SOUTHGATE not arrived. Repairs to BRIARWOOD completed. Expecting to sail convoy A.M./27. (N.O.I.C. Iceland, 1526N/25).

P.Q.3 CAPE CORSO. For information. CAPE CORSO lost P.Q.3 on 11/11 and proceeding independently arrived off Archangel bar 36 hours before remainder of Convoy. She was challenged twice in White Sea but was not boarded and was not identified by Russian Naval Staff until she was half way up River. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1633C/25).

H.X.158. Delayed by unfavourable weather. Four stragglers. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D., 1919A/25 to Opnav),.
Pass to N.C.S.O's. Replies to A.M.1632/14 should now be made. (D.T.D., 1925A/25).

/MIRLO....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.11.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

MIRLO. P.Q.6. Admiral Miles 1116D/22. Chartered oiler MIRLO with 8600 tons Admiralty Fuel due Iceland about 29/11 should be supplied with an oiler outfit from another oiler and warm clothing. Vessel should be sailed in P.Q.6. convoy for Murmansk, where she will be available for fuelling escorts. (4th S.L., 1945A/25 to A.C.I.C.)

Q.P.3. Intend sailing Q.P.3 for U.K. 27/11. Timber only TEMPLE ARCH, QUEEN CITY, HARTLEBURY, ORIENT CITY, KUZBASS, YRCOS, REVOLUTSIONER, ANDREMARTI. Magnesite only EMPIRE BAFFIN. Chrome ore only HARPA LION. (N.C.S.O. Archangel, 2220C/25).

O.S.13 Admiralty 1928A/21. (i) ROCKINGHAM is to act as additional escort.
(ii) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to detail special escort for Monitors and is to arrange fuelling of monitor and ROCKINGHAM at Ponta Delgada.
(iv) Request you sail ships accordingly.
(C. in C. W.A.,2245A/24 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Times of sailing from Liverpool. Admiralty's 1628A/6/10/41 and 0029/24/4/41 and my 2259/24/4/41. My view is unchanged that the period of greatest danger on the East Coast is from Sunset to Dark. Most recent sailing of paired L.M.S. Ships from Liverpool does not comply with necessary safeguard for their protection and it is requested that future sailings may be arranged appropriately. When Eastbound it is considered that these ships should pass the Pentland Firth at last light arriving at Methil in daylight the following day. If this is not convenient they should join a W.N. convoy remaining in convoy until after the first dark South of Duncansby Head.
(C. in C. Rosyth. 2301/25).

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

Intelligence. A.C.N.S. (F), 2229A/25 to C's. in C.
See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passing Gibraltar westbound 0958/25.
(D.O.R., 26/11.)

Force H Destroyers. Your 1627B(?21). Ref. 2338/10 from Admiralty not received.
(ii) Inclusion of HUNTS would reduce furthest west before dark by 40 to 50 miles.
Providing diversion is carried out by Force H on (? lines) of "Status" consider risk should be acceptable.
(iii) Effectiveness of diversion will be governed by composition of Force H on this date.
(S.O. Force H, 1142A/25.)

Operation "Bedlam". A.M. 1636/24. Cancel Operation "Bedlam".
2. If encountered, French ships ILE D'OUESSANT and ILE DE NOIRMOUTIER are not to be interfered with.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1239A/25 to C's. in C. A.W.I., S.A., F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1541A/25 to N.A. Stn.)

Shipping off Tunis to be attacked. Your 1824/17 and my 0138/13 paras. 2 and 3(d).
Following note was addressed to Vichy Govt. in March of this year: (begins):-
"Naval and air R/C has shown that off E. Coast of Tunis, German and Italian transports carrying reinforcements to Tripoli persistently use French territorial waters as a sanctuary to save them from attack.
Accordingly in all waters south of 35° 46' N., H.M.G. must reserve full liberty to authorise their naval and air forces to take action against these enemy ships which are directly engaged in military operations. They must further ask the French Govt. to warn all French ships in this area for their own safety not to be at sea between the hours of sunset and sunrise. H.M.G. cannot hold themselves responsible for the safety of any French ships which disregard this warning."
(Ends.)

/2. All

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Shipping off Tunis to be attacked. (Contd.)

2. All shipping at sea should therefore be attacked by night off Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N. whether within or outside territorial waters.
3. Above has been confirmed to C. in C. Med., and V.A. Malta, by separate signal.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1551A/25 to V.A.C.N.A.)

Swiss Shipping, Route.

Your 1544/17 and 1020/18. Swiss Govt. are being informed as requested. Route notified is:- pass W. of Iviza, thence to pass 10 miles N. of Cape Caballeria, Minorca, 10 miles N. of Revellate Point, Corsica, 12 miles S. of Genoa and thence to Genoa.
(Hd. of M., 1707A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AUDACITY A/C.

AUDACITY's 1458A/24. Air Screws are available and are being flown out to Gibraltar. No replacement Martlets are available. Propose AUDACITY should embark two Swordfish temporarily when fighter strength is reduced. Tool kits can be sent.
(D.N.A.D., 1943A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

CLAN MAGINNES.

C. in C. S.A. 1403/23.
Can you provide escort in accordance with A.M. 2132/27/9? M. of W.T. agrees in use of ship.
(D.O.D. (F), 2216A/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

Survivors of ships sunk by DEVONSHIRE, 22/11.

My 1945/24. DUNEDIN and CANTON are to carry out a curve of search as follows. Datum (a) 004° 20' S. 018° 30' W. datum time 1800N/22 sector 259° to 272° CANTON for speed 7 to 5 knots DUNEDIN for speed 5 to 3 knots. Report results. On completion CANTON patrol in I 34 C. DUNEDIN return to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 0029N/25 to DUNEDIN, CANTON.)
If boats are sighted give them a wide berth as U-Boat may be in company.
(C. in C. S.A., 0945N/25 to DUNEDIN, CANTON.)

/DUNEDIN.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNEDIN, feared sunk.

No reply can be obtained from DUNEDIN to my 1801/24th (F.T.247). Have you intercepted any signals from her?
(C. in C. S.A., 1041N/25 to DORSETSHIRE, CANTON.)
Your 1041N/25. No signal has been intercepted from DUNEDIN. A single unanswered call without priority was made to Freetown on station H/F from Naval General call sign A D at 1240 G.M.T./24. My P.C. and S. are (? 000°) 50' S. 029° 50' W. 151° 16 knots. Wind S.S.E. Force 2. Current one knot westerly.
(CANTON, 1700Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.)
DUNEDIN on patrol in area H 34 C has not (? answered) signal for over 12 hours and it is feared she may have been disabled or sunk by a U-Boat.
Estimate she would have reached centre of Eastern edge of this area a.m./24. Proceed to 002° 30' N. 025° 00' W. and search a lane 60 to 80 miles wide to (? Eastward) as far as 027° 30' W. then a similar lane to Eastward North of the Westward search, then return to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1633N/25 to BRIDGEWATER.)
Cancel my 0029/25. Ref. my 1633/25, search Saint Paul's Rock area 10 thence a lane 100 miles wide for 300 miles towards Freetown returning there on completion.
(C. in C. S.A., 2213N/25 to CANTON.)

W.S.12Z.

Arrivals 24/11 with W.S.12Z, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, VELOX.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 0049N/25 to Admty.)

Petrol for Lati at C.Verde Is.

Ref. your 1614A/24 (Sent by War Reg. asking for verification). Following is repetition of my 0859/12 addressed S.O.(I) Freetown: Spanish sailing ship ordered Santa Maria but refused to go. Discharged cargo PEDRO LUME into sea and drums floated ashore. Vessel cleared and sailed a.m./12 destination not known. Fine £500 rumoured to have been paid.
(Consul, St. Vincent, C.V., 1019/25 to Admty.)
W.R. Note: This message was originally received from C. in C. S.A. under T.O.O. 1318/13.)

Corvettes for Capetown.

Your 1824/24. Para. 2. R.D.F. requirements involve sending corvettes of 3rd Minesweeping Flotilla. Is there any objection?
(C. in C. S.A., 1028N/25 to Admty.)
Your 1028/25. No objection.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1940A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

/BELLE.....

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South Atlantic - Contd.

BELLE BRETAGNE, PETITE ANNICK (French)

Your 1817A/24. BELLE BRETAGNE and PETITE ANNICK fuel capacity 11 tons, maximum speed 4 knots, daily consumption 90 gallons.
(C.C.S.O. Gib., 1055/25 to Admty.)

CAMBRIA, cable operations.

My 1928/7. Owing to serious interruptions to cables North of St. Vincent C.V., repairs to West Coast Cables now less urgent until northern connections restored. If escort can be spared to cover operations near St. Vincent, request you will arrange for cable ship CAMBRIA due Freetown 2/12 to proceed as soon as practicable to repair Madeira-St.Vincent two and three, interrupted 9 miles and 19 miles respectively north of St. Vincent. If escort cannot proceed so far, repairs mentioned my 1928/7 should be progressed.
(D.S.D., 1118A/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

LADY DENISON PENDER, cable operations.

In view delay in arrival cable for Robben Island operation request you will arrange for LADY DENISON PENDER to proceed as soon as possible to repair (a) Zanzibar-Seychelles, near Seychelles, (b) Zanzibar-Mombasa (c) Zanzibar-Dar-es-Salaam cables in that order. Robben Island cable aboard CITY OF CANTON due Capetown 7/12 should be discharged to Cable and Wireless cable tanks to await return LADY DENISON PENDER.
(D.S.D., 1121A/25 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

S.S. ORMONDE.

My 0338/31/5. ORMONDE sailed 22/11 E.T.A. Takoradi Monday 1/12. Defects water percolating into number one bilges probably due strained rivets and refrigerator system may require overhaul in U.K. otherwise turnround normal. Cargo on board on sailing 3123.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 1231B/25 to D. of S.T.)

BULOLO at Rio.

Except in emergency extensions of (? days) are never to be asked for without previous reference to me. C.S.A.I. 150 para. 7 refers.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1357Z/25 to BULOLO.)

ALCANTARA, ASTURIAS, BIRMINGHAM, ARNDALE.

On completion of transfers with oiler ARNDALE, ALCANTARA is to proceed to patrol J 33 (C) and (D). ASTURIAS leaves J 33 1/12 and makes R/V with BIRMINGHAM at "Pig" at 1500 G.M.T./2 to transfer stores subsequently fuelling at Montevideo 6/12. BIRMINGHAM leaves Falkland Is. p.m./25/11 embarks personnel and stores from oiler ARNDALE at F.O. 28/11 then proceeds to K.32, K.33. Oiler ARNDALE is to be at F.O. by 1800 G.M.T./27.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1441Z/25 to S.A.D.)

/FRITILLARY....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

FRITILLARY. — Admty. 1824A/24. FRITILLARY is to join South Atlantic command and is to be sailed as additional escort to O.S.13. FRITILLARY is to be detailed as special escort for MONITOR. (C. in C. W.A., 1505A/25 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

SNAKEFLY. — Departure 1400/25 B.D.V. SNAKEFLY E.T.A. Freetown a.m./28. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1731N/25 to C. in C. S.A.)

BULOLO. — Left 1900 G.M.T./25. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1901Z/25 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BIRMINGHAM. — Stanley departure 1930 G.M.T./25 R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM on patrol. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1935Z/25 to Admty.)

S.T.Convoys. — Cancel my 1837/22 your 2329A/23 and my 2343/14. Propose dispersal point for Cape ships from S.T. Convoy is vicinity of 003° 00' N., 012° 00' W. (C. in C. S.A., 2011N/25 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE, action with raider 22/11. — Following is brief summary of destruction of Raider by DEVONSHIRE on 22/11. Raider closely resembled Raider 16 with exception of removable characteristics such as Samson posts and ventilators. Enemy was engaged at 17500 yards and did not return fire. DEVONSHIRE's 4th salvo hit number 2 hold causing fire and subsequently explosion of magazine. Enemy turned away under cover of smoke and sank at 1014 after a 2nd explosion. Shortly after interception Raider cast off a lifeboat filled with oil drums. (C. in C. S.A., 2035N/25 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

M/V torpedoed by GLAUCOS. — Now known that Greek S/M GLAUCOS torpedoed M/V of 3000 tons off Heraklion, Crete, on 10/11. Ship probably sunk, but impossible to confirm this. (D.S. 812, 25/11.)

/MAURO.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

MAURO CROCE. (Italian)	Information graded C.O. received that MAURO CROCE was torpedoed on 9/11 off Port Bouc. She left Barcelona on 8/11 for Genoa. (D.S. 812, 25/11.)
UPRIGHT.	UPRIGHT expected 0730 by N.E. route, Sanctuary conditions in force. (V.A. Malta, 0625B/25 to S.O. Force K.)
GLENROY.	21 officers and 276 ratings GLENROY arrived Alexandria in NAPIER, ERIDGE, and FARNDALE. 6 officers and 56 ratings returned to ship in ERIDGE sailing 0630. Nominal list of officers is being forwarded. Ratings are accommodated Grebe. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0721B/25 to C. in C. Med.)
Force K.	Force K returned 0730B/25 owing to shortage of oil fuel in destroyers. No damage or casualties. (V.A. Malta, 1019B/25 to Admty.) Well done again. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2128A/25 to S.O. Force K.)
Fleet movements.	Arrival 24/11, DUNAVON, THORGRIM, HASTY, JACKAL, KIPLING, NAPIER, NIZAM, PARRAMATTA, CARLISLE. Departure 24th, TRUANT, GRIFFIN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, BARHAM, VALIANT, DECOY, JERVIS, HASTY, NAPIER, NIZAM, KIPLING, JACKAL, PARRAMATTA, THORGRIM tug (VA(?ILL)ANT. Arrival 25/11 FARNDALE. 2 approx. positions given to FLAMINGO. Departure 25th ERIDGE. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 1122B/25 to Admty., etc.)
Sweep by 7 C.S. APHIS bombardment.	Unless you have good reason to the contrary close African coast about 2300/25 in approx. 021° 40' East and sweep for coastal traffic at high speed as far as 023° 00' East, thence to position "G". APHIS is bombarding Gazala at 0230. (C. in C. Med., 1145B/25 to R.A. 7 C.S.)
TRUANT.	Intend returning to harbour owing to defective exhaust joint arriving Alexandria Sanctuary 0500/26. (TRUANT, 1346B/25 to Capt. S.1.)

/Ships.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Ships sunk by Force K.

Two Italian Merchant ships escorted by 2 destroyers sighted by Malta R/C 0740 G.M.T. and subsequently by 201 Group R/C at 0840 G.M.T./24/11 about 65 miles west of Crete steering W.S.W. Blenheim Striking Force which left soon after second sighting failed to locate. Italian ships subsequently located and both merchant vessels sunk by Naval Force from Malta. Destroyers escaped.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1439/25.)

Vichy Shipping, Tunis.

My 0138/13, para. 2 second sentence and para. 3(d). In view of warning to Vichy Government reported to you in my 1800/2/4, all shipping at sea should continue to be attacked by night off Tunisian Coast south of 35° 46' N., whether within or outside territorial waters. 2. Other recipients of my 0138/13 have been informed by separate signal.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1549A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Soviet Ships from Black Sea.

My 1814D/20 para. 3. Ships will arrive 2000/27. Tankers are SYKKALIN, AVANESEN and MUAPEE. 2. Russian representative in charge is called Serikh in first named tanker. 3. A.N.A. Istanbul's 1944/14 para. 3. Please confirm that a British Officer will sail in (this ?) ship.
(Adm. Miles, 1621D/25 to C. in C. Med.)
My 1621D/25 para. 3.
I understand that Soviet C.N.S. is extremely worried that his ships may sail under British control without British representative on board. He has apparently heard from Soviet N.A. that only one British officer has arrived.
(Adm. Miles, 1636D/25 to C. in C. Med.)

TRUANT.

My 1745B/24. TRUANT is returning to Alexandria owing to defect. E.T.A. at Sanctuary 0500B/26. Estimated position 1800/25th, 032° 40' 027° 54'.
(Capt. S.1., 1645B/25 to Med. Fleet.)

U/B.

U-Boat sighted in 032° 22' N. 025° 53' E. at 1315/25. Course 050°. Dived when seen.
(Alexandria C.C.O., 1647B/25 to S.O. Force I.)

SOKOL.

Your 0018B/24. Request permission to arrive Malta 1000B/26. My P.C. and S.:- 036° 14' 017° 49', 259°, 10 knots, weather report.
(SOKOL, 1730B/25 to Capt. S.10.)

/STEEL WORKER.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

STEEL WORKER. Have you any news of American STEEL WORKER due Aden 17/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D., 1730A/25 to N.C.S.O. Aden.)
Reply: 1545/26.

Libya. Cositrep No. 104, Air and Army.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1159/25 to Air Min.)
See Lion Copy.
Military Situation dawn/25.
(C. in C. M.E., 1745/25 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

S/M's. Sanctuary. Alexandria Submarine Sanctuary will be in force from 0200 to 1000 G.M.T./26.
(Alexandria W/T, 1748B/25 to Force I, Med. Fleet.) Addition, see 0026/26.

Force K, S/M's. 25/11 arrived and sailed AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY. Arrived UPRIGHT, sailed UPHOLDER.
(V.A. Malta, 1906B/25 to Admty.)

U/B Hunt. U-Boat in 032° 34' N. 026° 24' E. at 1630 being hunted by Capt. (D) 14th D.F. until 0600 when he is to return to Alexandria. N.O.i/c. Alexandria pass to 201 Naval Co-operation Group.
(C. in C. Med., 1917B/25 to Med. Fleet, etc.)

Benghazi bombed. Night 24/25. 14 Wellingtons attacked base Cathedral Mole Benghazi 2355 to 0220 hours. Thunder and very bad electrical storms. Large explosions small fires base Cathedral Mole hits area railway workshops, Customs House, and Military H.Q.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 2015/25.)

Tobruk. Situation Report.
Military. Situation quiet continuing preparations for further sortie.
Air. Considerable (? reinforcements). 2 bombing raids on harbour this evening, no damage reported. Satellite Aerodrome nowready to receive aircraft.
Naval. Harbour shelled by S.W. Battery, no damage or casualties. Salvage Party clearing quay berths. SOTRA sweeping approaches. M.L. 1004 on patrol. M.L. 1048 E.T.A. 1330/26. TIBERIO completed discharge, now back loading.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2106B/25 to C. in C. Med.)

/THORN.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

THORN. E.T.A. 0601B/27. Noon position 26th, 033° 00' 028° 16'.
(THORN, 2217B/25 to Capt. S.1.)

Minesweeper Reinforcements. Following "LL" and S.A. minesweepers will reinforce Med. Station.
120th M/S Flotilla. Motor Minesweepers 99 to 104 inclusive leaving Canada, March 1942.
169th M/S Group. Trawlers, MYRLAND, KENNET at Freetown 24/11, with POST BOY and ESTRELLA DO NORTE leaving England, December 1941.
To join 158th M/S Group, trawler AIGLON leaving England, December 1941.
(V.C.N.S., 2303A/25 to C. in C. Med.)

Force K. Tanker escorted by 2 destroyers expected to pass through 038° 12' N. 018° 22' E. at 0400B/26 course 157° speed 14 knots.
2. On completion of present operations proceed to intercept provided no superior enemy forces have been detected.
3. Return through Dead Area entering by S.E. Channel.
4. Second A.S.V. will take off shortly to search area near position given in para. 1 with orders to report by W/T with negative (alternative "feigned") report at 0300.
5. Retirement is at your discretion if contact is delayed.
(V.A. Malta, 2323B/25 to S.O. Force K.)

UNBEATEN. Patrol vicinity 032° 35' 013° 20' until 1900B.
14½ knots Merchant Ship escorted by one destroyer may be expected passing westward during 26/11.
(Capt. S.10, 2341B/25 to UNBEATEN.)

MOST SECRET.

Q

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force G. ELECTRA, EXPRESS, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 00452/25 to Admty. etc.)

DAUNTLESS. (1) Following programme is intended for passage of DAUNTLESS though E.I. Station.

Arrive.	Place.	Leave.
-	Colombo	A.M./27
P.M./1/12.	Seychelles	A.M./3
A.M./6/12.	Mombasa.	A.M./8.

thence to South African Ports as arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown.
(2) It is hoped that opportunity can be taken to escort troop-ship fitted to capacity from Mombasa to Durban.
(3) DAUNTLESS full capacity 87% if normal for D Class.
(4) Ship will need to clean boilers at Cape Port.
(5) C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange onward programme to U.K. (C. in C. E.I. 1338Z/25 to Adty.)

SURCOUF (French) intercepted by CORNWALL. At 054(?1)Z/25 CORNWALL intercepted French M/V SURCOUF bound North in 007° 17' N. 052° 06' E. (ii) Ship stopped and signalled she did not intend to abandon ship. CORNWALL was instructed to send her into Aden for examination.
(iii) CORNWALL now reports as follows:-
(A) Ship was boarded at 0852Z and proceeded with prize crew at 1130Z routed through Guardafui Channel and North side of Gulf of Aden. (B) Maximum speed 5 knots. (C) Prize crew have orders to make alarm signal on 500 kc/s if a submarine attempts recovery. (D) Cargo of foodstuff and rum. (iv) Although presence of submarines is not confirmed F.O. Red Sea Force is requested to arrange A/S escort to meet SURCOUF in Guardafui vicinity on 28/11 CORNWALL is being instructed to remain within aircraft R/C distance till P.M./27 and to make R/V for A/S Vessel. (C. in C. E.I., 1440Z/25 to Admty.)

A/S Escorts Durban Area. Your 1812/23. (i) Request whether intended to provide any A/S escorts in Durban Cape area in near future. (ii) Suggested that high concentration of shipping between Cape and Mombasa renders early provision of ocean going A/S craft desirable. (C. in C. E.I., 1508Z/25 to Admty.)
Your 1508Z/25. A.M. 1824A/24 is being passed to you. (D.O.D. (F) 2217A/25 to C. in C. E.I.)
Refers to corvettes for service at Capetown, see South Atlantic 24/11.

/Defences.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Defences, Nancowry.

A.M. 2026/20. Following received from M.N.B.D.O. (Begins). Area S.E. of Burleigh Point was considered, but on day that R/C was carried out beach was unapproachable by ship's boat or landing craft due to swell and surf. Weather conditions on this day fine light easterly wind. It was thought that conditions during S.W. monsoon period would be more severe and that even should guns be landed under favourable conditions maintenance might become impossible. In view of Admiralty's signal suggest further R/C of this area be made on Major Salter's return to Nancowry. (Ends). (C. in C. E.I. 1550Z/25 to C. in C. China, amended 1134A/28).

Minesweepers.

Your 0556Z/30/10. Following L.L. and S.A. fitted minesweepers will reinforce East Indies Station. (V.C.N.S., 2304/25 to C. in C.E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.) See Lion Copy.

China.

D'ARTAGNAN (French).

Departure 25/11 D'ARTAGNAN, Shanghai 29th. (N.C.S.O. Manila, 0630Z/25 to M. of W.T.)

Force G.

Grateful for guidance as to whether any announcement or propaganda is to be allowed when naval reinforcements arrive. There are already distinct signs of intelligent anticipation among press representatives caused by recent announcements. (C. in C. China 0933Z/25 to Admty.)

/Indo.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Indo-China. Six aerodromes in South F.I. C. reported ready for use. Noticeable movement of aircraft to F.I.C. and (? Hainan). Strength at present approx. 200 in each place. Japanese have requested use of four additional landing grounds in North F.I.C. and permission to effect improvements. Abnormal transport activity Saigon and indications of similar activity at Haiphong. Estimated 10,000 men withdrawn from central China during week, some in tropical kit. Withdrawals of M.L.C. from central China since 1/10 total 330, but no indication of destination. Arrival of aircraft indicates near completion of preparations for operation based on Indo-China should Japanese policy so require. Only Japanese merchant ships outside Japan and China Seas are eleven in South Seas and one in South America. (Capt. on Staff, Singapore 1007Z/25).

SCOUT. THRACIAN. operation. Hong Kong departure 23/11. SCOUT, THRACIAN for operation (Singapore recall) Singapore 25/11 arrival BULAN from Miri. (S.O.I. Singapore 1049Z/25 to Admty.)

Germans in TROCAS. SYDNEY. overdue. Concur that this is probable explanation. A.C.N.B. is organizing search with assistance from C.Z.M. (C. in C. China, 1133Z/25 to Admty.) (See also Australia).

Minesweepers. Following dispositions have been approved.
122nd M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 51, 52, 93, 94, 125 to 128 inclusive, Singapore.
123rd M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 95, 96, 123, 124, 165, Port Swettenham.
124th M.S.F. Motor Minesweepers Nos. 151 to 156 inclusive, Port Penang. (V.C.N.S., 1845A/25 to C. in C. China.)

Axis Shipping. 1. PIERRE L.D. is expected to sail from Saigon for Europe or North Africa between 25th and 27/11.
2. One of German ships at Kobe believed preparing to leave for Europe about 1/12. She will probably carry rubber and German nationals. Germans are reported as planning to send a ship to Europe monthly. (D.N.I. 2305A/25 to C. in C. China, etc.).

/Assistance...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Assistance to Thailand.

Following from Chiefs of Staff. F.E. No.44. War Cabinet are anxious that we should make some offer of assistance to Thailand. We realise that your resources permit of little more than a token gift, but anything sent from here could not arrive in time to have effect.
2. What aircraft could you send:-
(a) Without unduly prejudicing arrangements now in train to assist Chennault or
(b) irrespective of assistance to Chennault.
3. Could you, in addition, make up small hamper of military equipment? Anything sent would be replaced from here. Time lag in effecting repayment is realised. (W.O. 2355/25 to C. in C. Far East.)

America and West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

B.A.R.M's 1230R/22. Intended that destroyer escort should meet ILLUSTRIOUS about noon/14/12 in approx. 33° W. and in latitude of the Azores.
2. Destroyers will have escorted an outwardbound convoy and will fuel in Azores, where they are permitted to remain for 24 hours only. Therefore essential that ILLUSTRIOUS should conform to destroyers' programme. (A.C.N.S. (H) 0026A/25 to C. in C. A.W.I., ILLUSTRIOUS).

GITANO, S.O.S.

Grindstone Island Radio. S.O.S. from GITANO. Require assistance immediately. Position West St. Paul Island (Cabot Strait, entrance to G. of St. Lawrence 47° 14' N. 60° 8' W.) drifting on the shore, steampipe broken. (Valentia Radio, 0659/25).

DIANTHUS.

Will leave Charleston for St. Johns N.F. p.m./9/12. (B.A.R.M. 0904R/25 to Admty.)

/Vichy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Vichy Shipping. Operation "Bedlam" cancelled. See North Atlantic.

TULIP. TULIP is to be transferred to Capetown as soon as she can be spared by INDOMITABLE. N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica is to sail TULIP accordingly via Trinidad and Freetown reporting intended programme. (C. in C. A.W.I., 10320/25 to N.O.I.C.'s Trinidad, Kingston).

"Q" Report 12/11. DIOMEDE reports QQQQ heard on 500 K/cs strength 5 at 1559Z/12/11. Note then faded and became broken and nothing else could be read except letters P and I and possibly M and E. No subsequent signal and no ship repeated. DIOMEDE's position was 1.50 N. 95.23 W. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1039Q/25 to Admty., B.A.D.)

PANDORA. F.O.(S) 2248A/23. No objection to PANDORA omitting call at Bermuda, but consider desirable she should proceed via Halifax to obtain latest operational information. B.A.D. pass to PANDORA. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042Q/25 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. FORMIDABLE. Admty. 0915A/19 and B.A.D. 1231R/15. Proposed programmes to expedite return. (B.A.R.M. 1312R/25 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
My 1230R/22 and 1312R/25. ILLUSTRIOUS is now to leave Norfolk P.M./28 arriving Jamaica A.M./1/12, and embark 810 and 829 Sqns. She is to leave Jamaica A.M./2 and arrive Norfolk P.M./4. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to confirm ship should return by same route as in his 1152Q/25. C. in C. A.W.I. is also requested to issue subsequent route instructions from Norfolk to U.K. N.O.I.C. Kingston pass to R.N.A.S. Palisadoes. (B.A.R.M. 1430R/25 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

W.E.HUTTON. Have you any news of American W.E. HUTTON due Curacao 17/11 from Reykjavik? (D.T.D. 1334A/25 to S.B.N.O. Curacao).
Your 1334A/25. No information. (S.B.N.O. Curacao 1140Q/25).

/U.S.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

U.S. and Surinam.	U.S. Troops in 4 small vessels sailed for Surin(am?) escorted by U.S. Destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 15000/25 to Admty.) W.D. Note:- Announced 24/11 that U.S. Forces were to protect bauxite mines in Dutch Guiana..
CLARKIA.	24/11 arrival Mobile. (N.C.S.O. New Orleans, 2021Z/25 to Admty.)

Australia.

German Survivors in TROCAS. SYDNEY still overdue.	My 1312Z/24, not to Admiralty. Oil tanker TROCAS reports survivors from COMORON, sunk by cruiser.. There is no further news of SYDNEY. (A.C.N.B. 0016Z/25 to Admty. etc.) Comment by O.I.C. Possibly KAMERUN (5,100 tons, built 1938, 15 knots, last heard Hamburg 1939). A.C.N.B. 0016/25. The only explanation we can think of is that Raider torpedoed SYDNEY before being sunk. Request your views and details of steps that you are taking to try and locate her. (1st Sea Lord 1120A/25 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. China). My 0617Z/24. Following censorship in force Australia publicity and communications (begins): No reference to SYDNEY or any statement or rumour regarding alleged naval activities Australian waters (Ends). Request you will conform. (A.C.N.B. 0829Z/25 to Admty.) Admty. 1120A/25. Agree Admiralty's (?statement) appears only explanation. Estimate action occurred forenoon of 21st. Following action has been taken. (i) Air search to cover likely area S. of 020° S. carried out 24th, 25th. (ii) 4 Auxiliary vessels from Fremantle proceeding to search. (iii) Air search being carried out by 6 aircraft based on Geraldton 26th. (iv) 2 Catalina aircraft proceeding Port Moresby to Fremantle ready to operate 26th. (v) C.Z.M. sending Netherlands Cruiser TROMP along probable route Sunda Strait to Fremantle and searching area N. of 020° S. by air. (vi) Merchant shipping warned to keep a good look out, 5 ships due to pass through the area. In addition to enemy survivors picked up by TROCAS, one life boat containing 40 or 50 men sighted under sail in area. 2 life boats also containing survivors ashore 40 miles N. of Carnarvon. Land party proceeding to take them into custody. All life boats painted dark brown colour and therefore

/do.....

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

German Survivors in TROCAS. SYDNEY still overdue - Contd.

do not belong to SYDNEY. Hoped to obtain information from prisoners. You will be kept informed of developments. (A.C.N.B., 1634Z/25 to Admty. C. in C. China).

Mines.

Q.F.4. ref. to F.109 Western Approaches to Torres Straits. Lines of (? mines) have been laid as follows:-
Area A. chart 23 75. One line from a position 15½° 14.35 miles from Booby Island Light in a 214° direction for 5.4 miles. Area B chart 23. 74. Line one from position 254½ 3.47 miles from Bampfield Head triangulation mark in a 126° direction for 1.5 miles. Line 2 from a position 122°. 0.65 miles from Red Wallis Island triangulation mark in a 241° direction for 0.68 miles. Line 3 from a position 287° 3.0 miles from Red Wallis Island triangulation mark in a 306° direction for 3.02 miles.
(A.C.N.B., 0701Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT

Your 1251A/31/10. (1251/1/11 intended) Subject to dockyard work being completed by 5/12 as expected following programme is proposed. 5 and 6/12 test, accommodation and gunnery exercises; Leave Sydney 7/12, Brisbane 8 - 9; Noumea 11 - 15; Brisbane 17 - 18; Port Darwin 24 - 26; Batavia 30/12 - 1/1; Singapore 2 - 5; Colombo 10 - 12; Aden 18 - 20; Suez 23/1. (LE TRIOMPHANT 0800Z/25 to Admty.)

CAP DES PALMES.

British Consul Noumea's 2102Z/20. Request confirmation that present destination of CAP DES PALMES is Papeete. Ship is expected at Singapore for conversion to A.M.C.
(D.O.D. (F) 1515A/25 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Analysis of M/F D/F bearings of two U-boats shadowing convoys recently. (D.A/S W., 2302A/25 to C. in C's etc.) See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.

2310C/24. Bearing by D/F at 2310C position of enemy U-boat was 070° 35' 032° 10' E., unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0012C/25, to C.S.10, 0018C/25 to SEAWOLF.)

Estimated approx., positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1350A/25, 1426A/25.)

U/Bs have been reported by A/C in following positions.

47 15 N.	09 20 W.	Course 100° at 1346/25.
47 37 N.	08 11 W.	Course 110° at 1505/25.
48 17 N.	08 13 W.	Course 230° at 1501/25.

(D.D.I.C. 1701/25 to P.36.)

Submarines Attacked.

By Russian P/B. Reported B 3 - U-boat rammed and sunk by patrol boat 45° Svyatoi Nos. 68.09 N., 39.49 E., 0700/25. Damage to bow, no survivors, no wreckage.
(S.B.N.O., N.Russia, 1157C/25 to Admty.)

By A/C. "A". Am over enemy S/M in position SXSA 3132 (indecipherable If HXSA = 47.31 N., 8.28 W.) Sighted on surface and observed to submerge, course 090° 8 knots. Have attacked with Depth Charges, estimate no hits.
(A/C duty A1243/25, 1250/25 to 19 Group.)

/By A/C "A".....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.11.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

By A/C "A".

Am over enemy S/M in 48.17 N., 8.13 W. When last seen was on surface and observed to submerge on a course 230°, speed 8 knots. Have attacked with depth charges. No hits. (A/C 1500/25, 1520/25, to 19 Group.) Hudson A/C, same as 1243 and 1250/25. Details of attacks, 1930/25. See Lion Copy.

By A/C.

Am over enemy S/M in 47.37 N., 8.11 W. When last seen was on surface and observed to submerge on a course 110°. speed 10 knots. Have attacked with depth charges, no hits. (A/C, 1505/25, 1507/25, to 19 Group.)

By Russian Ships.

U-boat rammed by patrol vessel 068° 16' N., 040° 36' E., at 0620, probably not sunk. (2) Another U-boat sighted in 067° 26' N., 041° 20' E., at 1100. Both U-boats being hunted by Russian ships. Admty., pass to C. in C.H.F., Capt. (S) Dundee, BERWICK. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 20300/25 to GOSSAMER.)

MOST SECRET.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Harwich was closed from 0838A to 1202A today on account of fog. Aultbea was closed at 1215 on account of the weather. The sailing of convoys was also disorganised.

SEAWOLF, operating off Varanger Fiord sank a 3,000 ton tanker in a westbound convoy at 0100 /22 and hit with torpedo and probably sank a merchant ship of uncertain size in another westbound convoy at 0015/24.

Western Approaches Plymouth, Portsmouth, Nore and Rosyth have been ordered to provide for the Home Fleet by 17/12 total of 2 leaders or Vee class destroyers, 5 Hunts, 6 corvettes, two A/A sloops and 5 A/S whalers.

Dover. Operation N.L.22 and Operation 'Baritone' were abandoned last night owing to movements of enemy surface craft in the vicinity.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Cherbourg and Brest last night.

Special air patrols are still being carried out to report any enemy units attempting to break out into the Atlantic north about.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

Falmouth. It is reported that Falmouth is given to enemy air pilots as the secondary target for all enemy planes minelaying and operating against shipping in the Bristol Channel, North Devon and Cornish coasts and St. George's Channel. Falmouth is a convoy port and also considerable ship repair work is carried out there. C. in C. Plymouth considers that the A.A. defences should be considerably strengthened.

Mining.

Owing to fog the approach channels, Thames Estuary, was not swept until 1130.

Bristol Channel ports east of Port Talbot were open from 1145 to 1900 today.

South Atlantic.

Corvettes for Freetown. C. in C. S.A. asks that the 4 corvettes sent from Western Approaches to relieve his four which are going down from Freetown to the Cape, may he selected for good condition. The four which were sent to him recently have either broken down at sea or spent most of their time under repair. Maintenance facilities at Freetown are still meagre. C. in C. W.A. stated (28/11) that owing to defects none of the 8 corvettes sent from the South Atlantic in exchange for his have yet been in service since their return.

/DUNEDIN....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DUNEDIN. No further news was received today of DUNEDIN from whom nothing had been heard since 24/11, but the Germans claimed that DRAGON, a sister ship, had been sunk by U-boat in the Atlantic. CANTON was ordered at 2213N/25 to search in St. Paul's Rock area.

Troop Convoy. W.S.12 Z (16 ships with troops and supplies for Middle East) arrived Freetown at 0049N/25 escorted by ROYAL SOVEREIGN and small craft.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. In very bad weather today 2 out of 6 Blenheims despatched attacked a 7,000 ton liner escorted by a destroyer 18 miles west of Horns and obtained 2 hits on the liner and one on the destroyer. The liner was later (27/11) seen 3 miles east of Tripoli low in the water and stopped 300 yards from shore.

Libya and Western Desert. Wellingtons dropped nearly 30 tons of bombs on Benghazi harbour last night, obtaining a hit on a 4,000 ton wreck at the outer Mole which is used as a landing stage. Several ships previously reported in harbour had departed.

APHIS bombarded Gazala Aerodrome in the early hours of today.

Force B (7th C.S. and 18th C.S.) returned to Alexandria at 1800 today after a sweep last night along the coast of Cyrenaica: no enemy ships were seen.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

The U.S. authorities have intelligence from which the conclusion to be drawn is that a Japanes naval force, composed of 4 Battleships (KONGO class, 8-14"), 4 aircraft carriers, 2 seaplane carriers, 8-8", 6-6", and 7-5.5" cruisers, 56 destroyers and 19 S/Ms. has been organised for an operation and that certain units of the force have started to move south. A special air force has assembled in Formosa and is in process of moving to Hainan.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

JASMINE. JASMINE is to join S.A. Command. Ship is to be ready to leave U.K. on 5/12.
(C. in C. W.A. 1037/26.)

FIDELITY. A.M.1610A/21. To make FIDELITY suitable as an A/A ship it would be necessary to increase her long range armament and to fit her with H.A. control.
2. Even if the above work was carried out, consider FIDELITY a most unsuitable ship to work on regular convoy escort work as long as she is manned as she is at present. FIDELITY cannot be regarded as a normal Naval vessel and it is considered that she should be employed on independent missions.
(C. in C. W.A. 1041A/26 to Adty.)

3 A/S Trawlers for Liverpool. Admiralty 2038A/25. Three A/S Trawlers, two from Londonderry and one from Greenock, are to be lent temporarily to F.O.I.C. Liverpool in lieu NARVIK MOLDE and BODO required for other service. (C. in C. W.A. 1206A/26.)

Additions to Home Fleet. 1. The following forces are to be prepared for service with Home Fleet and are to arrive at Scapa Flow by 17/12.
2. In view of the severe weather conditions experienced by Home Fleet all units mentioned are to be prepared as far as time permits for operations in cold weather, the necessary modifications made to ships, and warm clothing and other comforts provided before ships leave their present Commands.
C. in C. W.A. : One HUNT, six Corvettes, one A/A sloop.

C. in C. Plymouth : Two HUNTS.
C. in C. Portsmouth : Two HUNTS, one of which may be WHEATLAND.
C. in C. Nore : Two LEADERS or VEE Class destroyers fitted with S/A sweep.
C. in C. Rosyth : One A/A sloop.
3. Admiralty signals 2038A/25 and 2039A/25 to C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. Plymouth respectively are an additional commitment for these Commands.
4. SPEEDWELL, BRITOMART, HARRIER, HALCYON, and SALAMANDER, now being fitted for cold weather operations, are also additional to the above requirements.
5. HUNTS allocated must be the more modern type with broad beam.
(V.C.N.S. 1603A/26.)

/FORTUNE ...

MOST SECRET.

C

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

FORTUNE. — FORTUNE is to proceed to Gibraltar. Request you will sail FORTUNE to Plymouth as soon as ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 2131A/26 to C. in C. Nore.)

ARROW. BLANKNEY. — ARROW and BLANKNEY are required to proceed to Gibraltar. Ships are to be available at short notice. (C. in C. W.A. 2142A/26.)

U.S.A. and Russian Liaison Officers in H.F. — Your 2025A/19. Concur that U.S. Naval Liaison Officer in Home Fleet is now required and it is desirable that he should be accommodated in Fleet Flagship.
2. Accommodation is not available in KING GEORGE V. and I intend to accommodate F.R.M.O. in DUKE OF YORK or other H.F. ship.
3. Your 1457A/12. I do not foresee any real requirement for a Russian Liaison Officer and his value both to his service and ours will be much reduced by his inability to speak English. If on other grounds he is required in Home Fleet he will be accommodated in RODNEY.
(C. in C. H.F. 2211N/26 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

MIRLO. — Your 1945A/25. Request length and draught of MIRLO. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1127C/26 to Adty.)

Signals as to Russian Convoys. — Signals such as your 1526N/25 should be repeated S.B.N.O. Archangel, S.B.N.O. North Russia, and Admiral Miles.
(D.T.D. 1316A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

Russian minefields. — Following is a repetition para 1. My 1241C/17/8 to Adty. repeat Admiral Miles. Begins. Russian minefields in area enclosed in following positions entrance to White Sea (a) 067° 12' 041° 48' (b) 067° 15' 043° 33' 30" (c) 067° 01' 041° 48' (d) 067° 05' 36" 043° 30' 30". Ends.
This information has been promulgated by Adty. in Q.Z.R.9. C. in C. Northern Fleet requests our assistance in sweeping part Q.Z.R.9 and S.O.1st M/S F has been informed of position of mines required to be swept.
Lack of navigational aid, strong tides and shoal water make sweeping in this area difficult and C. in C. has been approached with a view to buoying Trekhostrovskaya shoal 067° 08' 30" 042° 10' during sweeping operations. Stepanov should be approached. On no account must sweeping of swept channel be interrupted for this work.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1736C/26.)

/Party ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia - contd.

Party for Russia.

A distinguished party similar to that which recently embarked in LONDON are shortly going to Russia. Request you will allocate a cruiser to convey them, leaving Scapa about 3/12. (V.C.N.S. 2305A/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

Defence of U.K.

Scapa A/S Defences.

A.M.1211A/25. Concur. (C. in C. W.A. 1006A/26.) Your 1211A/25th and 1408A/25. Experience has shewn that 110 foot motor launches are not very suitable for harbour defence patrol at Scapa. Existing 110 foot motor launches are used as an A/S striking force and for anti-boat defence. In order to maintain patrol at desired state of efficiency I should like to retain A/S drifters GUIDING LIGHT, EPHRETAH, OLIVE TREE, until repairs to damaged indicator loops have been completed. Request approval. (A.C.O.S. 1153A/26 to Adty.)

Falmouth A/A Defences.

I understand that, in the preliminary interrogation of the prisoners taken from the enemy plane shot down on the evening of 23/11 near Tamerton Foliet, it has been discovered that Falmouth is given as the secondary target for all enemy planes minelaying and operating against shipping in the Bristol Channel, North Devon and Cornish Coasts, and St. George's Channel. In view of the considerable ship repair work at Falmouth and also as it is a Convoy Port I am of the opinion that the A/A defences should be considerably strengthened. (C. in C. Plymouth 1609/26.)

Movements.

FRITILLARY. COWSLIP.

Your 1824A/24. Intend to transfer Corvettes as follows :-
1. FRITILLARY to sail with O.S.13.
2. COWSLIP to sail from Gibraltar.
3. Two Corvettes to sail from U.K. about 5/12.
(C. in C. W.A. 0029A/26 to Adty.)

WATCHMAN SCIMITAR.

WATCHMAN and SCIMITAR hove to in 059° N. 021° 35' W. MONKSHOOD informed. (WATCHMAN 0101A/26.)

ELLESMERE.

ELLESMERE is to proceed Plymouth forthwith. (C. in C. Plymouth 1046/26.)

WOLVERINE. EGLANTINE.

Proceed Liverpool independently. (BROKE 1050A/26 to WOLVERINE, EGLANTINE.)

/Floating ...

MOST SECRET.

1

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

Floating Crane.

My 1620/25. Delete all references to ULLSWATER and substitute NOTRE DAME DE FRANCE.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1242/26.)
N.O.I.C.Dartmouth 1911/25.
Holyhead to sail two M.Ls to arrive Fishguard a.m.29th. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail them as requisite to R/V. They are to be relieved off South Stack by two M.Ls from Holyhead for escort to vicinity South Rock. On relief M.Ls to return to base.
(C. in C. W.A. 1830A/26.)

Trials with OTWAY and WESTCOTT.

My 1800/22 and C. in C. W.A. 1236/25. Orders.
(C.A/S E.E. 1250/26 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CILICIA.

My 0941A/18. CILICIA leaves Clyde 6/12 for Freetown. (S.O.W.P. 1250A/26.)

LOCH MONTEITH.

Your 1233/26. Hove to in approx. 060° N. 000° 36' W. Proceeding R/V (corrupt Group). Weather permitting.
(LOCH MONTEITH 1530/26.)

H.44

Add 6 hours to all times in my 0902/23.
(Capt. S.7. 1708A/26.)
From position 050° 05' N. 002° W. proceed through 050° 22' N. 000° 41' W. to R/V 0815A/28 in 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. Submerged restrictions in area 53 extended until 2359/27.
(Capt. S.5. 1955A/26 to H.44.)

Operations.

Operation "Baritone".

My 1511A/25. Operation "Baritone" was abandoned at 0127 owing to R.D.F. plot showing enemy surface vessels approaching the immediate vicinity.
(V.A. Dover 0914A/26.)

M.T.B. engagement off Gravelines on 25/11.

Last night Tuesday M.T.B.44, 45, 218 and 219 were despatched to intercept an R.D.F. plot of several vessels which left Boulogne northeastwards at 1812, turned back when off Gravelines at 2050, and re-entered Boulogne at 2330. Between 2000 and 2220 contact was made on several occasions in visibility sometimes less than half a mile. Reports show that enemy probably consisted of one large magnetic mine sweeper accompanied by several trawlers and R. Boats. M.T.B.45 sighted and

/unsuccessfully ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

M.T.B. engagement off Gravelines on 25/11 - contd.

unsuccessfully attacked the minesweeper but other M.T.Bs did not sight a suitable torpedo target. All M.T.Bs report heavy but inaccurate enemy gun fire and returned this fire when opportunity offered. They sustained no casualties but some superficial damage. (V.A. Dover 0916A/26.)

Patrols.

My 1034/26. For HEYBOURNE WYKE read JOHN CATLING. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1432A/26.)
Weather permitting one unit of M.T.Bs of 1st Flotilla is to patrol between Ostende and Flushing tonight. Surface vessels met East of 2° 40' E. may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore 1538A/26 to BEEHIVE.)
Patrol tonight.
(1) 2 Motor Gunboats Q.E.(3)
(2) 3 Motor Launches Q.E.(5)
(3) 3 Motor Launches Q.E.(8)
(4) 3 M.T.Bs returning to Harwich from eastwards at daylight.
(C. in C. Nore 1617A/26.)

M.G.B. for N.I.D.

Admiralty 1930A/25/10. Intend to sail M.G.Bs. 320 and 318 at 1700 today to carry out para. B.4. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1535A/26.)

Iceland - Faroes and Denmark Strait Patrols.

Cancel my 1449A/25. KENT is to proceed patrol South Black, by 1200Z/27. EDINBURGH to North Black. (11) CUMBERLAND is to remain on patrol White. (111) SUFFOLK is to patrol Denmark Strait to westward patrol Bear.
(C. in C. H.F. 2221N/26.)

VIRGILIA (Torpedoed 24/11)

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 1849A/26. Intend to sink VIRGILIA by gun fire.
(C. in C.Nore 2247A/26.)

Enemy Tanker sunk on Night 21/22.

One westbound 3000 ton Tanker sunk by SEAWOLF off Norwegian Coast.
(D.S. 813.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols "Frice" and "Polar" are required from daylight today. Object detection enemy merchant ship raider possibly attempting to break out.
(A.C.N.S. H. 0027A/26 and 0318A/26.)
"Polar" to be flown all today, first sortie as early as possible.
(H.Q.C.C. 0045/26 to R.A.F. Iceland.)

/"Polar" ...

MOST SECRET.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols contd.

"Polar" in operation from 1145N.
(A.C.I.C. 1151N/26.)
Cancel my 1151N/26. Aircraft returned with defect. (A.C.I.C. 1456N/26.)
My 0027A/26. Following patrols are required tomorrow.
A. A sweep to cover approximately the area between "Rovik" and "Frice" patrols extended to the eastward of "Frice".
B. "Polar" from daylight to dusk.
C. "Bear" by A.S.V. fitted aircraft during night 27/28 November.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1931A/26.)

Bombing operations.

On Night 24/25 there were no operations.
On Night 25/26 fifteen A/C bombed Docks at Cherbourg and 17 A/C bombed Brest, where some A/C report the effectiveness of the smoke screen which increased the difficulty of successfully pinpointing their bomb bursts.
(H.Q.B.C. 1318/26.)

A/C and Motor Ships.

In condition of low visibility ships on escort duty should not request escorting aircraft to carry out any duty that will involve them closing merchant ships nearer than the limit laid down. This endangers friendly aircraft and was recently the cause of 1 being fired upon by a merchant ship. (C. in C. W.A. 1702A/26.)

Enemy Air Activity.

St. George's Channel.

Steamer GLAMORGAN COAST reports that at about 1530/25 when 2 miles South of Mine Head, 52° N. 7° 35' W, two Heinkels flew over Mine Head and then followed the coast line to the eastward. These aircraft may have been searching for steamer GREAT WESTERN leaving Waterford p.m. for Rosslare vide my 2251A/24.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1331/26.)

Mining.

N.L.22.

My 1551/25. Operation N.L.22 was abandoned owing to movements of enemy surface craft.
(V.A. Dover 0915A/26.)

Bristol Channel.

Bristol Channel Ports East of Port Talbot open from 1145 until 1900 today.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0924A/26.)
Exploded Red Magnetic Mine 0947A/26 072° 8 cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1220A/26.)

/Exploded ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Bristol Channel - contd.

Exploded two red magnetic mines, first at 1127/26 Van, in 161° 1.1 miles Flatholm Light, second at 1147/26 in 174° 1.5 miles Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1425A/26.)

N.P.18.

My 0915A/26. Intend to carry out operation N.P.18 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1029A/26.)
My 1029A/26. Operation has been postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 2229A/26.)
Four M.Ls leave Dover at 2330 via No.1 Buoy returning about 0500/27.
(V.A. Dover 1559/26.)

Sweep in Faroes Passage.

C. in C. H.F. 1719N/25. Continue sweeping operations. One A/S trawler is to be on patrol to the westward of Swept Gap whenever operations are not in progress.
(A.C.O.S. 1125/26 to S.O. M/S 4.)
Your 1125A/26. S.O.4th M/S Flotilla intends operating weather permitting from 1200 until 1700 tomorrow only, returning to Fugle Fiord on completion. Request fighter protection.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 2124A/26.)

S.N. Operations.

Your 2141/25. Operations can be carried out without assistance of SCOTT. But it has been the practice to send SCOTT to the area up to 24 hours before the lay so that she has reasonable chance to obtain Astronomical fixes. The chances of obtaining these during the time the Squadron is on the spot are much less, and reliance will have to be placed on fixes by soundings. In some cases this will mean that detours have to be made to run the necessary lines of soundings and in certain cases it will also be necessary to allow greater tolerances.
(R.A.M. 1419/26 to Adty.)
Your 1742/25. It is unlikely that date of first operation can be advanced but it may be possible to reduce intervals between succeeding lays slightly. This will largely depend upon the supply situation.
(R.A.M. 1607/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

Fraserburgh Minefield.

In operation p.m. today.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1630/26.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Ships to steam in Units.

C.A.F.O. 809/41. Where applicable ships are invariably to steam in units when in waters where any form of enemy attack is possible unless there is some particular reason which renders cross connection essential. An exception is made in the case of ships carrying out practices inside Scapa Flow.
(C. in C. H.F. 1415N/26.)

Navigational.

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0838A/26.)
Port opened. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1202A/26.)

Sheringham Buoy.
57 C Buoy.

Commodore F.N.61 reports Sheringham buoy missing, 57 C extinguished.
(N.C.S.O. Sunderland 0924/26.)
Request confirmation.
(C. in C. Nore 1147A/26 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth)

Aultbea.

Port closed due to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1215/26.)

Kola Inlet.

My 2211C/7. Kola Inlet further A/S net has been laid between lines drawn 117° from 69° 7' 30" N. 33° 26' 38" E. and 69° 7' 13" N. 33° 26' 20" E. and the shore. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F. BERWICK, Capt. (D) 17.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1901C/26.)

Casualties and Defects.

Unknown Ship.

Intercepted at 0530 G.M.T. DE 21. Addressed O.N.40. In collision with me. Request return Belfast, signed Master. Bearing from G.P.K. approx. 304°. Unreliable sector.
(Port Patrick Radio 0530/26.)
Intercepted at 0545 G.M.T. DE O.N.40. Addressed 21. Reply Yes.
(Port Patrick Radio 0645/26.)

FLOWERGATE.

Following received addressed Naval Control Reykjavik from FLOWERGATE begins. Require machinery repairs. Inform me of approach routes. (C. in C. W.A. 0827A/26 to A.C.I.C.)

FOWEY.

Starboard main steam bulkhead valve cover joint blown out. Expect to sail 1700/26.
(FOWEY 1015A/26.)

/RENONCULE ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

RENONCULE. Severe leak probably in engine room water not under control. Proceeding Iceland. Request escort. My P.C.S. are 059° 40' N. 027° 10' W. (?162°) 9 knots at 1100Z/26.
(RENONCULE 1100Z/26.)
Proceed forthwith to assist RENONCULE reported in 59° 40' N. 27° 10' W. at 1100Z/26 with engine defects. Escort to Iceland if necessary and report situation.
(C. in C. W.A. 1457A/26 to HEARTSEASE.)
Your 1457A/26. RENONCULE proceeding to Iceland at 15 knots. Endeavouring to contact her.
(HEARTSEASE 1600Z/26.)
Water still not controlled. My P.C.S. at 1900Z/26 060° 48' N. 025° 39' W. 025° 10.
RENONCULE 2130Z/26.)

DORINGTON COURT. S/S DORINGTON COURT ashore south side of Black Island, Lynn of Lorne. Also S/S K G MELDAHL in convoy anchorage flying signals "I am drifting require tug". (N.O.I.C. Oban 1115A/26.)
K.G. MELDAHL. My 1115A/26. No progress DORINGTON COURT. Tug awaiting weather moderating. Request salvage assistance.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1420A/26.)
My 1115A/26 and 1420A/26. DORINGTON COURT making water amidships. Awaiting salvage advice before attempting to refloat.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1625A/26.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. Admiralty's 1957A/14. ILLUSTRIOUS will now be taken in hand at Rosyth. Time in hand is not to exceed four weeks.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1252A/26.)

Sailed H.M. Tug ST. OLAVES to assist ship reported at entrance Loch Ewe.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1404A/26.)

GALT. (Damaged 25/11.) GALT returned 1700.
(A.C.I.C. 1755N/26.)

HAVELOCK. HAVELOCK's 1659/26. Begins. Noise from damaged starboard propellor prevents A/S echo or H.E. being distinguished at all speeds over 9 knots. Propose to return to Base. Ends. No dry dock is available in Liverpool for about 10 days. Request C. in C. W.A. be informed where HAVELOCK can be docked.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1908A/26.)

BOADICEA. Damaged going alongside PRESIDENT SERGEANT at Moville. Unfit to proceed on escort duties.
(BOADICEA 2215A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Request ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

HAVELOCK - contd. — Request you sail HAVELOCK to Cardiff for docking and changing of propeller. (C. in C. W.A. 2126A/26 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

KING SOL. — The good seamanship and devotion to duty displayed by officers and ship's company of KING SOL in bringing their ship safely into harbour under most difficult conditions reflect the greatest credit on all concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 1916A/26 to KING SOL.)

My 1032A/22 and A.C. W.A. 1531A/22. Owing to defects FORTUNE will not be ready to leave Sheerness until 28/11. (C. in C. Nore 2104A/26.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.G.76. HAVELOCK HARVESTER COWSLIP. — Request you will sail HAVELOCK and HARVESTER as soon as ready to act as additional escort to H.G.76. Route. HAVELOCK and HARVESTER are to part company with convoy as convenient to refuel at Ponta Delgada subsequently rejoining and returning to U.K. with H.G. 76. (C. in C. W.A. 0015A/26 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
My 0015A/26. Request you will sail COWSLIP with H.G.76 remaining with convoy till HAVELOCK and HARVESTER join. COWSLIP is subsequently to be transferred to South Atlantic Command. Request you will arrange transfer with C. in C. S.A. (C. in C. W.A. 0032A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoy W.S.14. — Will leave U.K.6/12. RAMILLIES to join as Ocean Escort in following position. Orders for Destroyer Escort. (A.C.N.S. H. 0029A/26) See Lion Copy.
Names of Ships and Details. (A.C.N.S. H. 0108A/26 to C. in C. W.A.) See Lion Copy.

O.N.M.40. CORNWALL. — CORNWALL returned with collision damage. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0935A/26.)

F.N.63. — F.N.63 postponed 24 hours owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 0958A/26.)

/O.N.40 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.40. On route at position 7 at noon B S T, course 326°, 8 knots unescorted. Gale, visibility reduced, consider Minch Channel inadvisable. Request diversion to outside route before 1600 B S T.
(MANCHESTER EXPORTER 1143Z/26.)

D.S.17. Your 1700A/25. Request you sail BRIGHTON to R/V with NEWARK and convoy in 192° Skerryvore 16½ miles at 1100A/27.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1146A/26 to R.A.D. H.F.)
Intend postponing sailing of D.S.17 until weather moderates. Codeword "Product".
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1256A/26.)

O.G.77. Oban portion delayed by weather. Convoy and escorts except MYOSOTIS, BLUEBELL, proceed to Clyde and await orders.
(C. in C. W.A. 1208A/26.)

H.X.159. Met as arranged. One straggler ahead. All ships arrived. (D.T.D. 1318A/26 to Opnav.)

P.Q.5. Your 1206D/25. A.C.I.C's 1526N/25 is passed for information begins. P.Q.5 sailing delayed owing to requirements of coal, oil and water by several ships. MERIDIAN and SOUTHGATE not arrived. Repairs to G.Q.Y.R. completed. Expecting to sail convoy a.m.27th/11. Ends.
(D.T.D. 1321A/26 to Ad. Miles.)

O.N.U.40. Anticipate O.N.U.40 will be unable to sail owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 1440A/26.)

W.P.B.73. M/S Trawler SIR JOHN LISTER has been sailed to Swansea and will be included in W.P.B.73 as part escort to Falmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1607A/26.)

ENGADINE. (Aircraft Transport) Carrying naval aircraft for Freetown and Egypt will sail from Clyde with Convoy W.S.14. (D.O.D. H. 1811A/26.)

O.G.77. Your 1530A/26. Approved to lead convoy at slow speed down North Channel for tonight.
(C. in C. W.A. 1906A/26 to Escort O.G.77.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

LOUVETOT. (French) — Left Pasajes for Bilbao in ballast. (V. Consul, San Sebastian, no T.O.O./26 to M.E.W.)

A/S Sweep. — Departure LAFOREY, LIGHTNING, MAORI, ISAAC SWEERS, for A/S sweep west of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 0430A/26 to Admty.)

French Shipping. — Passings 25/11. West-bound, OUED-TIFLET, FULW, MEN-GWEN (?). (V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/26 to Admty. for M.E.W.)

Explosions. — At 0949 in 036° 02' N. 007° 00' W. 3 underwater explosions heard close astern. Area searched nothing found. Proceeding. (Capt. D.19, 1201/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

STANLEY. CLAN MACINNES. — Your 2216/25, propose STANLEY escorts CLAN MACINNES to Gibraltar, 1303N/23 from C. in C. S.A. refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1542A/26 to Admty.)

A/S Sweep. — Departure WISHART, BRADFORD for A/S sweep west of Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1628A/26 to Admty.)

O.21. — R. of P. (O.21 to F.O.C.N.A. 1630A/26) See Mediterranean.

LEGION. ISAAC SWEERS. — Your 1440A/25. Approved. 2. LEGION can be taken in hand for refit by London Graving Dock, Poplar, early December and ISAAC SWEERS by Thornycroft, Southampton, about first week in January, 1942. 3. Request anticipated dates of arrival in U.K. may be communicated. (D.O.D. (F) 1655A/26 to S.O. Force H.) Departure LEGION. (F.O.C.N.A. 2200A/26 to 19th D.F., Admty.)

COWSLIP. FARADAY. — C. in C. W.A. (? 0032) A/26 (see Shipping). Would you concur to COWSLIP returning to Gibraltar and escorting FARADAY for first part of passage? (F.O.C.N.A. 1746A/26 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC. — Your 1500/23. First officer S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC just arrived at Gibraltar states French armed guards on board but an Italian crew expected shortly. Important to receive early information of arrival of Italians. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1748A/26 to Consul Tangier).

/Minesweepers.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Minesweepers. Your 1823B/17/7, 1933A/26/8 and 1703A/5/10. Since AIGLON and MOSAMONDE have been diverted to Freetown request (? two) other L.L. and S.A. sweepers be allocated to complete M.S. Group 165 at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1752/26 to Admty.)

JONQUIL. JONQUIL sailing with H.G. 76 for refitting in U.K. Request name of refitting port and that arrangements be progressed for completing outstanding alterations and additions, particularly extension of fore-castle, reconstructions of bridge, fitting of pom-poms, oerlikons, increased depth charge armements, and type 271. (F.O.C.N.A. 1834A/26 to Admty.)

French Shipping. Gibraltar 0800/26. Destroyer SIMOUN, TAMARA laden, trawlers KERPAPE, JOSEPH ELISE, westbound. (S.O.I., Gib., 1847A/26 to Admty. etc.)

South Atlantic.

COWSLIP. To join S.A. Command after escorting H.G.76. (C. in C. W.A., 0032A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Shipping.

DERWENTDALE HOXA ROMEO EMERALD. R.F.A. DERWENTDALE escorted by HOXA and ROMEO departed Simonstown 1100 G.M.T./26 to R/V with EMERALD at outer end Durban searched channel 0600 G.M.T./30. Subsequently EMERALD and DERWENTDALE proceed Aden, HOXA and ROMEO to Durban. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/26 to Admty. etc.)

JOUETT. Task Forces. Area 3. JOUETT left Pernambuco 1800Z/25 through 05° S. 33° W. and 07° 50' N. 54° 40' W. to arrive Trinidad A.M./29. (D.O.D. (F) 1155A/26 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.S.A.D.)

/Corvettes.

FORRIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Corvettes.

A.M. 1824A/24. Request the 4 corvettes sent to relieve my 4, which leave here for the Cape very shortly, may be selected for their good condition having if possible docked and refitted recently. VIOLET, AURICULA, NIGELIA and WALL-FLOWER since their recent arrival have either broken down at sea or spent most of their time under repair. Maintenance facilities here are still meagre. (C. in C. S.A., 1315N/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

CANTON, BRIDGEWATER, search for DUNEDIN.

My 2213/25 to CANTON only and my 1633N/25. Estimate BRIDGEWATER will be in 002° 40' N. 024° 00' W. about 1800/27. CANTON appointed for R/V with BRIDGEWATER for 28/11 and co-ordinate the search. If nothing is seen ships should leave patrol 30/11 and return independently to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 1401N/26 to CANTON, BRIDGEWATER). C. in C. S.A.'s 1401N/26. R/V 002° 00' N. 026° 55' W. at 1730N/28. Sweep westwards along latitude 002° 20' N. before turning eastward along 002° 05 ' N. for R/V at 1730N Friday. (CANTON 2230Z/26 to BRIDGEWATER).

Petrol Ships.

The Petrol Committee representing all consumers on West coast is now functioning at Lagos. R.N.O. Lagos is my representative and arranges sailings of PINZON, PINTO, and ATLANTIC COAST. At first meeting committee agreed that these 3 ships will not compete with present monthly requirements quite apart from expected increases, mainly R.A.F. and Pan American Airways. Report shews clearly necessity for two more ships of about 1000 tons each for distributing petrol in West Africa in order to avert a serious shortage. Military and R.A.F. concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1505N/26 to D. of S.T.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, fuel consumption.

Your 1324A/22. On passage to Freetown ROYAL SOVEREIGN burnt 2500 tons fuel in 265 hours. Distance through water 3484 miles, fuel remaining 600 tons.
2. Estimated endurance with 12 boilers connected and 6 at one hours notice allowing 400 tons remaining, 14 knots 3800 miles, 13.5 knots 3915 miles, distances through the water. (C. in C. S.A., 1855N/26 to Admty.)

/SEVERN.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

SEVERN A/S Training. — SEVERN's month at Freetown has been invaluable for A/S training but owing to escort commitments less than half the A/S fitted vessels have had more than elementary training and some none at all. 2. SEVERN's state however makes it advisable for her to return to Gibraltar shortly. 3. Propose to sail SEVERN for (?Gibraltar) shortly but it would be appreciated if another and somewhat smaller submarine could be made available to continue essential training. 4. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1136A/24. SEVERN has no spare pistons left but is fit to proceed to Gibraltar without waiting for spares. (C. in C. S.A., 1945N/26 to Admty.)

ANJA. — Brazilian Govt. have informed Ambassador that they propose to buy Finnish ship ANJA now en route New York to Brazil. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro 2011Z/26).

Mediterranean.

S/M Sanctuaries. — Add to my 1748B/25, and submarine exercise sanctuary from 0200 to 0800. (Alexandria C.C.O. 0026B/26 to Force I).

Force K. — My 2323B/25. Wellington call sign A.M.9.D. taking off at 0111/26 does not carry S.A.I.R. Code. Syko Card of 25th.
2. My 1735/25. Wind Sea and swell increasing to moderate by dawn. (V.A. Malta, 0111B/26 to S.O. Force K.)

URSULA. — F.O.S. 1312A/20 and C. in C. Med. 1217B/23. Following is proposed programme for URSULA. 30/11, leave Malta. 7/12, arrive Gibraltar. 8/12 leave Gibraltar. 17/12 arrive Holy Loch. (Capt. S.10, 1009B/26 to Capt. S.1.)

A/C. — One aeroplane bearing 040° distant 5 miles course unknown from 31.39 N., 26.28 E. (PARRAMATTA, 1035B/26 to Alexandria W/T).

/Enemy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Enemy Units Force K.

Previous orders and my 2323/25. Estimated position first and second target 036° 52' N., 019° 06' E., and 036° 50' N. 018° 58' E. respectively. No change in course and speed. 2. If you are in position to do so attack. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1041B/26 to S.O. Force K.)
Believe no contact made last night by Force K with target mentioned in M.K. 143 or by W/T. Weather conditions bad but every effort will be made to R/C for M.K. target today. Above is a repetition of my 1025B/26. (V.A. Malta, 1106B/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Fleet Operations.

Operations 23rd - 26th November. On 23/11 Force B consisting of 7th C.S. and 15th C.S. left Alexandria, in order to carry out operation M.E.5 in Central Med. in co-operation with Force K. Primary operation was attack on important convoy of 2 ships, Force K making to Northward and Force B to Southward. Force K successfully attacked and sunk both ships but had to return to Malta owing to destroyer fuel shortage. Force B remained in Central Med. to deal with other convoys at sea. These convoys however withdrew Northward on hearing of action by Force K.
Battle Fleet sailed 1600/24 to form a supporting force in case cruisers got into difficulties and move as far as possible to Westwards during the night. Fleet unobserved that evening or night. No fighter cover was available throughout operation in consequence Fleet was constantly under observation throughout 25th while operating in vicinity of 033° 00' N. 025° 30' E.
Endeavour was made to give impression of move in Central Med. by steaming as much as possible to Westward whenever R/C aircraft were close to Fleet. Possibly owing to concentration by R/C aircraft on fleet there has been no indication Force B was sighted. No bombing attacks took place.
From 1700 onwards a large number of aircraft were in the vicinity of Fleet and there is little doubt a Torpedo aircraft attack was intended in bright moon.
Aircraft appear to have attacked destroyers hunting S/M in mistake for battle fleet and by dint of a cast to Northwards aircraft were finally shaken off by 2000/25 without attack developing.
Battle fleet turned Eastwards at 1930/25 arriving Alexandria 1045/26.
Shortage of fuel imposed return of Force B to harbour and in absence of targets it was instructed to sweep along North Cyrenaican coast after dark/25 while returning to Alexandria. Force is still at sea so that no report of its activity yet received. (C. in C. Med. 1108B/26 to Admty.)

/PERSEUS.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

PERSEUS.	PERSEUS leaves Malta P.M./26 through 035° 30' 014° 10' 034° 20' 015° 00' 032° 45' 017° 30' 031° 30' 017° 30' thence to arrive Benghazi A.M./30. (Capt. S.10. 1121B/26 to Capt. S.1.) PERSEUS leaves 35° 30' 14° 10' about 2100B/26 through 34° 20' 15° 00' for Sirte. (Capt. S.10 1137B/26 to UNBEATEN).
OLYMPUS.	Proceed from last position given through 038° 00' 011° 44' and 037° 16' 012° 56' thence direct by N.W. Searched Channel to arrive Marsaxlokk A.M./30. Passage through Q.B.B. 65 to be made submerged during daylight 29/11. REGENT leaves Malta for Gibraltar shortly. Her movements will be signalled. (Capt. S.10, 1158B/26 to OLYMPUS).
TRUSTY, Argostoli.	R/C indicates Argostoli may be in use as intermediate Port on Brindisi-Benghazi Route. Concentrate your Patrol off this area tomorrow 27th. (Capt. S.1, 1205B/26 to TRUSTY).
P.31.	Leave patrol as necessary through 038° 20' 017° 00' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/30. (Capt. S.10 1220B/26 to P.31.)
COETLOGAN (French).	Arrival 26th. (Barcelona 1237/26 to D. of S.T.)
Force B.	Force B expected 1715.B, Gate 1800. Request berths. (F.O. 7th C.S. 1332B/26 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)
S/M Sanctuaries.	My 1145B/24 para. 2. For 0001B/27 read 1000B/27 at which time SOKOL is now expected to arrive at Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1429B/26 to S.O. Force K.)
Force K, convoy action 24/11.	Preliminary report of attack on convoy 24/11 by Force K. (1) PENELOPE and LIVELY being port wing of Force K spread made contact with enemy convoy consisting of 2 M.V's escorted by 2 destroyers at 1610B/24. (2) Enemy destroyers zig-zagging made smoke to screen M.V's who retire to N.E.

/(3).....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Force K, convoy action 24/11 - Contd.

(3) Spirited action took place between enemy destroyers and PENELOPE and LIVELY until range had closed to 8000 yards. (4) During this engagement PENELOPE claims one possible hit but no speed reduction. Enemy's fire accurate but spread very large. (5) At 8000 yards enemy destroyer retired leaving M.V's at mercy of PENELOPE who set both on fire with a few salvoes. (6) M.V's blew up after 15 and 25 minutes respectively whilst an attempt to abandon ship was being made. Probably no survivors. (7) Chase of enemy destroyers abandoned as they retired towards Greece, opening the range. (8) Force K. returned Malta, further operations being precluded owing to destroyers lack of fuel. (9) No damage or casualties in Force K. (V.A. Malta, 1431B/26 to Admty.)

Enemy Unit. ?

(Group missed) destroyer in 36° 57' N. 17° 01' E. Course 340° T. 10 knots 1449. (A/C 1517/26 to Hal Far).

STEEL WORKER.

Your 1730/25. American Ship STEEL WORKER routed to Aden by Suez passed Perim 16/11 did not call Aden. Agents advise destination Vizagapatam. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1545Z/26 to Admty.)

C.S.7.

Early arrival of your force at Alexandria is essential. (C. in C. Med. 1548B/26 to C.S.7)

0.21
2 schooners sunk.

Position 1600A/26, (038°) (?40') N. 003° 23' E. spoilt (as received) 8 torpedoes, no mark X left. 2 Schooners sunk by gunfire and rammed. Nightly convoy escorted by A.M.C. between Civita Vecchia and Terraneva (Sardinia), Italian coastal convoy escorted by destroyer and (? torpedo boats). E.T.A. 0900A/28. Weather report. (0.21 ? 1630A/26 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Force K, PERSEUS.

Arrivals:- AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, LANCE. Departure:- PERSEUS. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1707B/26 to Admty.)

/Forces.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Forces B and C.

AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY form Force B. 1st Division 15th C.S. GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR form Force C.
2. F.O.C. 7th C.S. is requested to take Force B and C under his orders and proceed at 0200 27th at latest to pass through approx. 032° 30' N. 025° 30' E. at 1800/27th.
3. Force B is then to proceed at high speed to reach Sanctuary described in M.E.5 para. 7 A.M. 28th and thence Malta.
4. Force B may be diverted by C. in C. Med. Fleet to intercept enemy convoy during this passage. Failing such diversion T. of A. Malta is at discretion F.O.C. 7th C.S. but should be as early as is compatible with (A) keeping fuel in hand for brief operation (B) Reasonable security from short range bombers (C) Avoiding contact with superior forces.
5. Object of Force B is the destruction of supplies from Italy to Benghazi. These may be carried in merchant ships or warships. Force B. is to remain based at Malta and operate in co-operation with Force K for this purpose under operational control of V.A. Malta.
6. Force B is to embark as much additional ammunition as possible before sailing. Each cruiser is also to embark up to 6 submarines torpedoes (?for) Malta. Sailing not to be delayed on this account.
7. The conservation of fuel stocks at Malta is of great importance.
8. Force C. is to be detached P.M./27th as ordered by R.A.7 C.S. Further orders will be signalled but possible objects are (A) interception of suspected enemy supplies by destroyers from Kithera Channel to Benghazi. (B) destruction of coastal traffic Benghazi-Derna (C) bombardment of Derna Harbour.
9. If no other orders are received Force C is to be East of 025° 00' E. by 0600/28th and return to Alexandria.
10. Best possible R/C will be arranged and details signalled.
11. Fighter codewords - Force B - "Eager", Force C - "Faith". (C. in C. Med. 1720B/26 to, Addressed C.S.7, AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, 1st Div. 15th C. S. Capt. (D) 2, HOTSPUR. Repeated Capt. (S) 1, 201 Naval Co-operation Group, Adty., F.O.C. Destroyer Flots. Med. Fleet, R.N. General H.Q. M.E., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Capt. (D) 14, S.O. Force "K", Air H.Q. Western Desert, V.A. Malta).

/22.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

22 A/S Group. — N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1937/24, (re loan of 22nd A/S group by Union Govt.) I should view the departure of these fine little ships with greatest regret. I trust that Union Govt. may be asked to allow them to continue on their present valuable work which is a fitting counterpart to the fine showing of South African Troops in the field. (C. in C. Med., 1744B/26 to Admty.)

Benina, Berka, Benghazi, bombed. — Night 24/25. 24 Wellingtons operated. 6 bombed dispersed aircraft Benina destroying 2, 9 bombed Berka Satellite without visible effect 9 attacked harbour and shipping Benghazi starting fires at base of Central Mole, no hits seen on ships. Attack by Malta Wellingtons earlier same night reported in Malta C.S.R. for 25/11.
Night 25/26. 21 Wellingtons dropped nearly 30 tons bombs on Benghazi Harbour. Direct hit on 4000 tons wreck at Outer Mole used as landing stage. Further bombs burst on Moles and docks without visible effect. Several ships previously reported in harbour had departed. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1836/26).

THRASHER. P.31. — Establish patrol forthwith, THRASHER between 039° and 040° N. and Eastwards of 018°; P.31 in present area R (?south) west of 017° 50'. THRASHER will be recalled about 10/12 to arrive at Alexandria a.m./16th. (Capt. S.1, 1931B/26 to THRASHER, P.31).

LISBOA
OTTO LEONHARDT (German). — Departure 24th LISBOA in ballast, Gandia.
Departure 26th OTTO LEONHARDT coaches, iron ore. (Valencia, 2040/26 to M. of W/T).

JUPITER defects. — Your 1801B/13. Previous reports received of defective rivets in additional stiffening in way of forward and aft magazines and shell rooms. Request further details of present case defective riveting. (Controller, 2042A/26 to C. in C. Med.)

Shipping. — Anticipated arrivals or sailings at Port Sudan and Egyptian Ports during December, troopships, M.T. ships, liners, etc. (D. of S.T., 2340A/26 to P.S.T.O. Egypt) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

VILLE DE VERDUN. CAP VARELLA. BOUGAINVILLE. (French.)	My 0902/21. VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Campha and departed 25/11. CAP VARELLA arrived Haiphong. My 1014/18, BOUGAINVILLE returned Haiphong now loading cement. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0327Z/26, to Admty.)
Change of Command.	Request I may be informed when it is intended to release publicity regarding forthcoming change in command, as simultaneous publication here appears desirable, especially in view of current local speculation. (C. in C. China, 0525Z/26, to Admty.)
SYDNEY. (missing.)	Summary of SYDNEY situation passed to S.O. Force 'G'. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0733Z/26, to Admty.) Resumee of operations up to 26/11. Total sighted 4 lifeboats and 1 raft all at present considered to contain enemy survivors. Air search continued supported by 4 auxiliary naval vessels. Intend continuing air search in area bounded by Geraldton N.W. Cape to 108° E., 3 Naval auxiliary vessels will be in the area. (Originator not stated, 1646Z/26, to C. in C. China, Admty.)
FUSIJAMA. (Italian.)	Yokohama. Departure 24/11, deeply laden. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0803Z/26, to Admty.) Cancelled by 0346Z/29.
S.S.VELEBIT.	S.O.(I)Singapore reports:- "A report has been received from a native woodman in North Andamans denoting presence of 6 survivors of VELEBIT - previously reported missing. They state ship was sunk by Germans on 26/6. A boat is being sent from Port Blair to investigate". (C/S Singapore 0837Z/26.)
MARECHAL JOFFRE. KNAI-DINH. (French.)	Arrived. (Shanghai, 2358Z/26, to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

MORDEN
FENNEL.

(1) MORDEN ordered to proceed to prudent limit with S.C.56 thence to Greenock for training Tobermory, replacing ROSTHERN arriving Greenock about 9/12. (2) FENNEL similar orders with S.C.57 replacing BARRIE arrival Greenock about 15/12.
(C.C.N.F., 0217Z/26, to N.O.I.C. Greenock,etc.)

M & A.

Programme. Bermuda 27/11 to San Diego 19/12.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 12320/26.)

SNARK.

Your 1722A/23. Colon now reports ship arrived Cristobal 13/11.
(S.O.I., Jamaica, 1301R/26, to Admty.)

Salvage
Tenders.

1. 5 salvage tenders with Diesel electric propulsion built in U.S.A., are being delivered at Port Arthur, Texas, the first immediately.
2. These craft are too small for winter Atlantic passage but for political reasons they must be taken from U.S.A., and it has been decided to send them to Trinidad to be used there as C. in C. thinks fit until April.
3. B.A.S.R., has naval crew in readiness for first tug. This is approved for first ship to avoid delay in her departure. For other four ships you should endeavour to arrange with M. of W.T.,representative New York for provision of mercantile crews as necessary.
4. Contact B.A.S.R. direct as to detailed arrangements.
(Head of S. 1353A/26 to C. in C.A.W.I.)

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Your 1928/25 to B.A.R.M. only. Approved to sail P.M./27, and remain an extra day at Jamaica for deck landing practice. Remainder of programme as in my 1430R/25. N.O.I.C.Kingston pass to R.N.A.S. Palisadoes.
(B.A.R.M., 1412R/26, to ILLUSTRIOUS.)

DIOMEDE.

DIOMEDE's 2235/22.
Fuelling Balboa arranged.
(B.A.D., 1459R/26, to DIOMEDE.)

O.N.40.

O.N.40 Canadian Unit 4.1. 15 COLOMBO (Senior) SKEENA, MIMOSA, SHEDIAC, WETASKAWIN, CAMROSE and ACONIT designated escort O.N.40.
(Opnav 1541/26.)

/World.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

World Control of Shipping.	Full text of communication from C.N.O., referred to in my 1801R/24. (B.A.D., 1631R/26, to Admty.) See Lion Copy.
ARCHER.	Anticipated ARCHER will be complete ex. trials on 15/12. Trials will last about a week. Intend ship should sail for Jamaica in accordance with Admty., 1355A/7 on completion of trials. (B.A.R.M., 1800R/26, to Admty.)
ANCYLUS OLAF FOSTENES collision.	Following received from Br. Ship ANCYLUS T.O.O. 1214/26. (Begins) - Proceeding Halifax E.T.A. 30/11 with bow damage after collision OLAF FOSTENES 0500 G.M.T./25. Lost touch OLAF ?FOSTENES 0700 G.M.T./25 049° 24' N., 046° 15' W., dead reckoning. Believed to be proceeding Halifax. (Ends.) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 2024Z/26 to Admty., C. in C.A.W.I., Amended 1943Z/27.)
W.S.12X.	Your 1721/24. LEONARD WOOD now able to maintain 14.5 to 15 knots and has rejoined convoy. All transports fast tankers cruiser and 6 destroyers now ordered to proceed in company routed from position (Y) through 040° S., 023° E., to Capetown. If LEONARD WOOD cannot maintain 14 knots convoy will be divided as before, both groups going to Capetown. (B.A.D., 2145R/26, to Admty., Amended 0941R/27.)
Japanese Fleet movements.	Following appreciation of Japanese Fleet movements is from centre established for that purpose at Honolulu and based on studying wireless traffic, volume, frequency, call signs etc. not repetition not Y methods and has been communicated to similar centres at Washington and Manila. Begins:- "Since the latter part of October the C. in Chief of Second Fleet has been forming a task force consisting of: second fleet, third fleet (including first and second base forces and first defence division), destroyer squadron three, submarine squadron five, combined air force, air squadron seven and possibly vessels of third battleship division in first fleet.

/3rd.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Japanese Fleet movements. Contd.

3rd Fleet units are believed to be moving in direction of Takao and Bako. It appears that 7th cruiser division and 3rd destroyer squadron are an advance unit and may be en route for South China. The combined air force has assembled in Takao and indications are that some of it has already moved on to Hainan Island. It seems that 2nd base force is transporting equipment of (?air force) to Taiwan. The South China Fleet, the French Indo China Force and naval Station at Sama Bako and Takao also appeared among addressees of radio calls concerning this task force. The R.N.O. Palao and 3rd base force at Palao have communicated extensively with C. in C. of 2nd. Fleet."
(B.A.D. Washington 2225R/26 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment. The "Task Force" would comprise-
4 Battleships (KONGO class; 8 - 14")
4 Aircraft Carriers.
2 Seaplane Carriers.
8 - 8" Cruisers.
6 - 6" Cruisers.
7 - 5.5" Cruisers.
48- 5" Destroyers.
8 - 4.7" Destroyers.
19 Submarines.
(NOTE: If the report is correct it means that the remaining 6 battleships of the Main Fleet have only four 8" Cruisers with them.)
There is confirmation from British sources that four 6" Cruisers are at Hainan and that some such force has been organised.
"Combined Air Force" is a title applied to any group of air squadrons acting together for a particular operation.
"Base Forces" are groups of small craft used for minelaying, minesweeping, etc.
The conclusion to be drawn is that a special force, composed as above, has been organised for an operation and that certain units of the force have started to move South. A special air force has assembled in Formosa and is in process of moving to Hainan.

Australia.

WESTRALIA.

Left Darwin 0025Z/26 for patrol.
(A.C.N.B. 1417Z/26 to Admty.,etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26.11.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1436A/26, 1437A/26.)

1154 G.M.T. — By D/F at 1154/26 G.M.T. U/Boat estimated to be within 100 miles of 43° 00' N., 44° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 1722A/26, to C. in C.A.W.I., etc.)

Submarines Attacked.

By SURPRISE. — Have attacked S/M in 007° 35' N., 014° 15' W.
(SURPRISE 0616N/26 to C. in C.S.A.)
Have dropped 2 pattern depth charges. Still in contact. Target is turning inside our circle.
(SURPRISE, 0701N/26, to C. in C.S.A.)

UTMOST, attack on Cruiser 21/11. — If on return of UTMOST to harbour it appears reasonably certain that she sank an enemy cruiser I suggest a congratulatory signal might be made by Admiralty.
(F.O.S., 1116A/26, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Aultbea was reopened at 0630A today.

F.O.I.C. Portland reports that the 4th M.G.B. Flotilla are proving to be useless for any operational work as they will not stand up to winter weather conditions. He asks that 4 additional M.L's. may be allocated to Portland.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Emden and Ostend.
Coastal Command aircraft attacked off the Hook of Holland this morning a 1500 ton enemy vessel which is believed to have been carrying an aircraft with catapult. The vessel was left enveloped in smoke and listing heavily.

This afternoon, 8 Hurricane bombers and fighter escort carried out a successful attack on shipping off the mouth of the Somme. One 2500 ton merchant ship was sunk, one Flakship was blown up and one was set on fire.

Mining.

It was intended to resume sweeping in the Faroes passage today, but weather rendered this impossible.

There was marked enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary between 1845 and 2150 today. Mines were seen to fall and others are suspected.

Bristol Channel ports were open again today from 1145 to 1900

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

The question of preventing the passage of U/boats through the Straits of Gibraltar is receiving attention. One Sunderland is to be sent from Freetown and one from U.K. as a temporary reinforcement to the A/S forces at Gibraltar; and ten Hudson aircraft are also to be sent.

Mediterranean.

Air R/C Malta.

V.A. Malta, reports that if cruiser squadrons at Malta are to operate effectively more reconnaissance aircraft must be sent there.

Air raid on Naples.

21 Wellingtons made a highly successful attack on Naples from 1806 to 2105 today.
Hits were obtained on the Royal Arsenal (by a 4000lb bomb) Torpedo Factory, I.M.A.M. Airframe works, Railway Junction, sheds, station, Marshalling yards, and storage depot, and A.G.I.P. oil tanks, 3 of which were set on fire.

6 Blenheims attacked a 7000 ton liner with destroyer escort off Tripoli today and claim 2 hits on the liner and one on a destroyer.

Forces B & C.

Force B (C.S.7 in AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY) and Force C (C.S.15 in NAIAD, EURYALUS, HASTY and HOTSPUR) left Alexandria during last night under F.O.C.7th C.S.

Force B is to proceed to Malta, where it is to remain based and is to operate in co-operation with Force K under operational control of V.A. Malta, with the object of destroying supplies from Italy to Benghazi.
Force C is to be detached p.m. today. The objects of the force are the destruction of enemy supplies by destroyers from Kithera Channel to Benghazi. The destruction of coastal traffic between Benghazi and Derna, and the bombardment of Derna Harbour.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

Libya & Western desert.

PARRAMATTA was torpedoed, apparently by a S/M. at 0100/27 and sank in 32° 20' N. 24° 35' E. whilst escorting S.S. HANNE with emergency supplies of ammunition for Tobruk. HANNE arrived at Tobruk safely.

It is known that the enemy is extremely short of supplies and particularly petrol, and is making every endeavour to get these stores to Benghazi and Derna, using destroyers to augment supply ships. The next ten days are of vital importance, and submarines on patrol have had their times on patrol extended and have been instructed to regard destroyers, other than those escorting, as small merchant ships and to attack them.
Wellingtons last night dropped 25 tons of bombs on Derna

U/Boat Campaign.

U.S. M.V. NISHMAHA today picked up 72 men from DUNEDIN which was torpedoed and sunk on 24/11 in the South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Portland. Additional M.L's. requested.

The 4th M.G.B. Flotilla are proving to be useless for any Operational work as they will not stand up to winter weather conditions.
2. Experience is showing that the half 20th M.L. Flotilla allocated to Portland is not sufficient to meet local Operational requirements. e.g. Air/Sea Rescue, Convoy protection Patrols and emergency duties.
3. Request 4 additional M.L's. be allocated to Portland. To meet this it is suggested that one Division of 25th M.L. Flotilla at present working up at Portland be retained.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1250/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

COWSLIP.

COWSLIP is allocated to S.A. Command in accordance with Admiralty's 1824A/24.
(C. in C. W.A., 1253A/27.)

ACANTHUS, ROSE, EGLANTINE, MONTBRETIA.

ACANTHUS, ROSE, EGLANTINE, MONTBRETIA and two corvettes detailed by Capt. (D) Liverpool are required to leave Liverpool on 15/12 for service with C. in C. H.F. and are not available for escort duty.
Following action is required:
(A) Ships are to boiler clean.
(B) Extra warm clothing and charts for Northern Waters are to be drawn.
Admiralty is being requested to issue instructions as to modifications required.
(C. in C. W.A., 1302A/27.)

Vichy French attitude.

Re Intel. 289. My newly arrived Vichy colleague who after leaving his (? group omitted) at Toulon and spending a month on Admiralty staff assures me that never would surrender of French fleet be considered by Darlan or French navy. He tells me that for whole 12 months at Toulon though nominally at two days notice nearly all C.O's had their ships at four hour notice for steam and that scuttling charges were operative at half an hour notice.
2. On the subject of German demands for African ports his attitude regarding French resistance was less convincing and he could only hope Petain would not have to yield.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1804/27.)
Note by N.I.D: Para. 1. All previous information confirms that Darlan will not willingly surrender his control of the French Fleet. The same cannot be said concerning his use of French Fleet to further his policy of collaboration with Germany.

/ARAB.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

ARAB for Liverpool.

Your 1206A/26. ARAB detailed. Probably available to leave Greenock p.m./29th.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 1830A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

Additions to Home Fleet.

Admiralty 1603A/26. Request attention of ships concerned may be drawn to H.T.M. 482 375 also to A.F.O. 2813/40 and (? C.A.F.O.) (? 13)33/41 and that where applicable these instructions may be complied with.
(C. in C. H.F., 1903N/27.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Oiling of GOSSAMER.

Your 1535C/25. Having with difficulty got out of the ice after 3½ hours struggle it was considered out of the question to re-enter it just before dark in search of BUG. RUBBLEN officer made no objection to oiling on following morning and L.O. said he could probably get BUG to come out of the ice and alongside.
(GOSSAMER, 0945C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

1st M/S. Flotilla. Operational Control.

S.B.N.O. Archangel 1130/26. Since minelayers cannot now visit Archangel intend operational control should be exercised by S.B.N.O. North Russia in agreement with C. in C. Northern Fleet. No other course seems practicable. Admiralty pass to S.O. 1st M/S.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0954C/27 to Ad. Miles.)

MIRLO.

Your 1127C/26. Length between perpendicular 441 feet, loaded draught 27 feet 6½ inches.
(D.O.D. H., 1212A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Oil Stock at Murmansk.

Your 1945A/25. (1 corrupt group) (? authorities) now states that (through) non-arrival fuel ordered reserve stocks at Murmansk will be reduced to 5000 tons (5 corrupt groups) mid-December. Propose MIRLO should discharge to shore tanks on arrival and return to U.K. with next Q.P. convoy to fill up returning to Murmansk mid-January. This will ensure adequate stock (on or about) mid-February. Fuelling from shore and by small tankers satisfactory.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 22300/27 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BLANKNEY, ARROW.	C. in C. W.A. 2312 and 2319A/26. Request you sail BLANKNEY to R/V with ARROW in 055° N. 005° 28' W. Time of R/V will be signalled when it is known at what time ARROW's calibration will be completed. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0136A/27 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.) Sailed ARROW to R/V with BLANKNEY in 055° N. 005° 28' W. in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2319A/26. E.T.A. Milford Haven 0930/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1314A/27 and 2026A/27.)
BERWICK, ONSLOW, OFFA.	Intend leaving convoy on meeting GOSSAMER. Destroyers with STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will leave at Cape Orlov proceeding Kola Inlet for fuel (3 corrupt groups) and one hundred tons of coal each. BERWICK E.T.A. Kola Inlet 09000/28. (BERWICK, 05190/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.) Your 05190/27. Pilot will board off Bolshoi Oleni Island, Kola Inlet to pilot to anchor berth off Mishukov Point. Lights as follows. Proceed position 000° Teri Berski light 9 miles. BEDOUIN, INTREPID sail Kola Inlet 15300/27 (corrupt group) White Sea and may be met. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 14090/27 to BERWICK.) E.T.A. Kola Inlet 10000/28. OFFA, STELLA CAPELLA, BUTE, in company. (ONSLOW, 14150/27.)
RESOLUTION.	(? Scapa) arrivals RESOLUTION, BERKELEY, and KUJAWIAK. (A.C.O.S., 0914A/27.)
SHEFFIELD (for P.Q.5)	My 1042Z/26. E.T.A. 1400Z/27. (SHEFFIELD, 0921/27 to A.C.I.C.)
Floating Crane.	My 1911/25. "Scent" postponed owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0934/27.)
INGLEFIELD.	Capt. (D) 3, in INGLEFIELD will be sailed for Hvalfjord p.m./28 to join C. in C. H.F. (R.A.D. H.F., 0956A/27.)
TRIDENT.	Your 0845/27. R/V with TRIDENT 090° out Skerries at 1600A/27. (Capt. S.9, 1009A/27 to LOCH MONTEITH.)

/My.....

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

TRIDENT. (Contd.)
My 1005A/27. LOCH MONTEITH unable to make R/V and proceeding to Lerwick. Trawler LORD LLOYD will be at R/V 090° Out Skerries 5 miles from 1430A to escort you into Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9, 1255A/27 to TRIDENT.)
Your 1030/27. Cancel my 1009A/27 and my 1157A/27.
(Capt. S.9, 1257A/27 to LOCH MONTEITH.)

P.37.
Sailed P.37 escorted by WHITE BEAR for Scapa in accordance with S.3, 1435A/25.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258A/27.)

KING GEORGE V.
VICTORIOUS.
Intend to sail in KING GEORGE V with VICTORIOUS and 7 destroyers passing Boom at 1400A/28 and (? proceed) (one group missing) Scapa, through Reykjanes Passage and thence through position 058° 45' N. 007° W. Speed of advance 17 knots.
(ii) A.C.O.S. is requested to provide sleeve target as follows at 1000A/30.
(C. in C. H.F., 1412N/27.)
1115A/30. Expected arrival in KING GEORGE V with (? VICTORIOUS) and 7 destroyers. Request Hoxa Gate 1200A and group 5 from 0930A if weather is thick.
(C. in C. H.F., 1424N/27.)
My 1412N/27. SOMALI, TARTAR, MATABELE, ESKIMO, ASHANTI, ECHO and ESCAPADE are detailed.
(C. in C. H.F., 1841N/27.)

P.37.
P.37 escorted by WHITE BEAR left Clyde 1200A/27 bound through Minches to Scapa, speed 9 knots, and may be met during dark hours.
(C. in C. W.A., 1545A/27 to S.C.54, E.N.11, etc.)

LAMERTON.
My 1506/21/11. Programme delayed 24 hours. Propose sailing p.m./29/11.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1615/27.)
(Cancelled by F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0955/28.)

MINERVE.
P.C.S. 59° N. 00° 30' W., 350°, 6.
(MINERVE, 1915A/27.)

LOBELIA.
In execution Admiralty 1856A/17 and reference Capt. D. Greenock 2207/23, my P.C.S. are 060° 46' N. 016° 50' W., 304°, 10.
(LOBELIA, 2000A/27 to A.C.I.C.)

/H.44.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.- Contd.

H.44. KINGSTON TURQUOISE and KINGSTON TOPAZ will be at R/V at 0815A/28. Both will transmit their frequency letters on S/ST and may fly balloons.
2. Portsmouth Sanctuary in force from 0700 to 1100.
3. Weather permitting one Beaufort aircraft will be in vicinity of R/V to assist you in making it.
(Capt. S.5, 2146A/27 to H.44.)

RORQUAL. (1) Intend to sail RORQUAL escorted by CUTTY SARK for Plymouth at 1200/28. E.T.A. Plymouth 0900A/30.
(2) Thence CUTTY SARK return to Holy Loch.
(3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange following fighter co-operation.
(Capt. S.3, 2235A/27.)

Operations.

Patrol. My 0930A/27. Drifter Patrol to shelter position A.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1040A/27.)

Combined Exercise. Your 1948A/23 and 0028A/26. Movements of ships and intentions.
(V.A. C.T.C., 1745A/27.)

Contact off Orkneys. Investigate R.D.F. surface contact in position 058° 50' N. 002° 33' W. at 2114, course South speed 10 knots.
(R.A.D. H.F., 2200A/27 to MONTROSE.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. "Polar" in operation from 0845. Sweep between "Rovik" and "Frice" from 0900.
(A.C.I.C., 1017A/27.)
My 1017N/26. "Rovik-Frice" sweep nil report. "Polar" returned owing to poor visibility at evening report by A.C.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654N/27.)
"Polar" in operation from ?1600N.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 2146N/27.)
My 1017N/26 (1017A/27 intended). "Rovik-Frice" sweep nil report. "Polar" returned owing to poor visibility at R report by A.C.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1654N/27.)

/ A/C for.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity - Contd.

A/C for AUDACITY.

A.M. 1943 2/3A/25. Concur proposal to embark Swordfish. In view of delay in sailing of H.G.76 further signal will be made regarding employment of AUDACITY.
(C. in C. W.A., 1554A/27.)

Enemy Air Activity.

GREAT WESTERN (A/C over Ireland on 25/11.)

My 0923A/25 and 1331/26. GREAT WESTERN reports that at 1530A/25 when on passage Waterford to Rosslare and in position 1 and ½ miles South of South Saltee Island a twin-engine aircraft believed Junkers approached from up Sun. When distant one mile enemy appeared to sight escorting aircraft ahead of GREAT WESTERN turned and flew North of Saltee Islands along Irish coast towards Rosslare. Enemy shortly afterwards turned Westwards flying within Irish coastline.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1619A/27.)

Mining.

Bristol Channel.

My 0924A/26. Similar procedure will be carried out today.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 0929A/27.)
Exploded red magnetic mine at 0835A/27 in 086° 6 cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S. Bristol Channel, 1650A/27.)

Sweep of Faroes Passage.

My 21247A/26. Operation cancelled owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1002A/27.)
Your 1125A/26. Operation today cancelled owing to weather. Adverse tide will now prevent further work until 6/12. Observing there have been only 3 days on which weather would have permitted sweeping, even if allowed, between Thursday and 6/12 ? date of suspending operation, authority is sought to ignore adverse tide in future whenever weather and swell are really favourable, except for only one hour either side low water. In view of urgency of completing operation I consider risk attached, which should only involve S.O's ship, must be accepted.
(S.O. 4th M/S.F., 1520A/27 to A.C.O.S.)

Enemy Intelligence.

2 Vessels off Orkneys.

R.A.(D) H.F. 2200. Subsequent reports indicate 2 surface vessels 7 miles East of Broughness at 2145, and 058° Broughness 8 miles at 2215, having apparently reversed course.
(A.C.O.S., 2233A/27 to MONTROSE.)

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Aultbea. — Port open.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0630A/27.)

Wick. — Harbour still closed.
(R.N.O. Wick, 1045/27.)

West Gunnet Buoy. — It is requested that the visibility of West Gunnet light buoy be increased to one mile on a clear dark night. It will be appreciated if this alteration be completed at your earliest convenience and that the light be sky screened.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1216/27 and 2350/27.)

Kola Inlet A/S Nets. — Action is being taken to warn shipping in the sense of your 1901C/26.
(D. of L.D., 1516A/27 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Admiralty 1736A/14 and 2008A/27. Further A/S nets have been laid between lines drawn 117° from 69° 07'30" N. 33° 26'38" E. and 69° 07'13" N. 33° 26'20" E. and the shore. No Q Z messages will be issued and the same special instructions regarding the promulgation of this information apply.
(D. of L.D., 1530A/27.)

Casualties and Defects.

LEDAAL, ST. OLAVES. — Proceed with all despatch to assist S.S.LEDAAL in position 15 miles 300° Rudhre. Ship has no anchor, steering gear broken, and is steering for Rudhre and trying to remain in vicinity of lighthouse.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0053A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)
Departure ST. OLAVES to assist LEDAAL.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0251A/27.)
Your 1020A/27. Tow LEDAAL to Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)
Your 1233A. LEDAAL has no anchors and ST. OLAVES has lost starboard anchor with port anchor damaged. Consider advisable to tow to Clyde.
(MAID OF KENT, 1340A/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Your 1340A. Cancel my 1235A/27. LEDAAL is to be towed to Ardrossan when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1505A/27 to ST. OLAVES.)

/RENONCULE....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 27.11.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

RENONCULE (Leaking 26/11.)

Unable to proceed. Position very serious. (? Request) help. Position 061° 47' N. 026° 38' W.
(RENONCULE, 0105Z/27.)
My 0105Z/27. Amend position to read 061° 52' N. 024° 40' W. Stationary.
(RENONCULE, 0140Z/27.)
RENONCULE reports position very serious in 061° 52' N. 024° 40' W., stationary.
(C. in C. W.A., 0401A/27 to HEARTSEASE.)
If fuel permits proceed to assist RENONCULE.
(C. in C. W.A., 0412A/27 to ST. FRANCIS.)
P.C.S. 62° (15') N. 25° W., 170°, 18 knots. Am joining search. Am in communication RENONCULE R/T.
(FOXHOUND, 0433A/27.)
RENONCULE found. ROSALYS will escort her to Iceland.
(FOXHOUND, 1126A/27.)
Cancel my 0412A/27. SUNDEW is now escorting RENONCULE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1341A/27 to ST. FRANCIS.)

KINGSTON ANDALUSITE.

Have been in collision with M/V, position 244° Portland 7½ miles, making water engine room. Pumps have water under control. Anchored. Request tug for standby.
(KINGSTON ANDALUSITE, 0400/27.)

MANXMAN.

Your 1038/23. As steam has had to be raised 3 nights running to ensure safety, boiler cleaning will not now be completed until 1600/2.
(MANXMAN, 1045/27 to R.A.M.)

BOADICEA.

C. in C. W.A. 0026A/27. Sailed BOADICEA for Greenock. Damage cannot be repaired at Londonderry.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1105A/27.)

DON.

N.C.S. Steam Drifter LASHER caused slight damage above waterline to DON whilst lying alongside in Methil Roads at 1700 yesterday. No damage to LASHER, DON now in Methil Docks.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1120/27.)

FLYING ADMIRAL.

Ex E.N.11. Arrived Trawler FLYING ADMIRAL tubes leaking badly.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 1233A/27.)

/SHAMA.....

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

SHAMA. H.M. Trawler SHAMA whilst on passage from Methil to Aberdeen struck an unknown vessel at 0720/26 in 56° 11' N. 2° 44' W. SHAMA being surveyed today. Damage to stern and plating on bow.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1245/27.)

HELIOTROPE. H.P. cylinder cover joint needs renewing. Maximum speed 12 knots until defect made good. Can be made good by ship's staff. Request permission to proceed Moville to top up with oil fuel and make good defect when alongside oiler.
(HELIOTROPE, 1300A/27.)
Your 1300A/27. Approved.
(C. in C. W.A., 1510A/27 to HELIOTROPE.)

FAULKNOR. FAULKNOR badly damaged stem bar when proceeding alongside oiler. Temporary repair is being carried out by Tyne which it is hoped will prove satisfactory. If not, dockyard repair will be necessary.
(R.A.D., 1402A/27.)

LEEDS. Collision between LEEDS and unknown steam drifter occurred 0659/26 in 56° 09' N. 2° 45' W. Unknown vessel considered to be at fault. Slight damage to plating. Estimated repairs will take 3 days.
(LEEDS, 1445/27.)

DORINGTON COURT (Grounded 26/11.) Refloated.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1508A/27.)
My 1508A/27. S.S. DORINGTON COURT has sustained damage necessitating dry docking. Intend sailing DORINGTON COURT for Rothesay Bay weather permitting at 1400A/28 escorted by SOUTHERN SPRAY.
E.T.A. Rothesay Bay 0800A/29.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1650A/27.)

ROSEDENE. Proceed to Gott Bay, Tiree to pick up S.S. ROSEDENE and tow her to Ayr.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1717A/27 to JAUNTY.)

GRIPFAST. (Collier). Arrived Portsmouth p.m./27. Master states that vessel has been damaged by collision in convoy.
(B.N.S.O. Portsmouth, 1828/27.)

/EMPIRE.....

MOST SECRET

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

EMPIRE TARPON. — Following received addressed S.N.O. Gourock via Port Patrick Radio.
Returning to Glasgow. Engine auxiliaries trouble also (? damaged by unknown merchant ship) colliding with our stern. 290° 87 Butt of Lewis at 1800 G.M.T.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1830/27.)

IMPULSIVE. — My 1841N/27. IMPULSIVE does not complete until (? 1600Z)/28 and will remain as one of RODNEY's screen. She has a number of urgent defects beyond capabilities of HECLA, so I suggest she should be relieved by INGLEFIELD.
(C. in C. H.F., 1843N/27 to R.A.D. H.F.)

HAVELOCK. — F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1908A/26 and C. in C. W.A. 2126A/26. Docking of HAVELOCK will be undertaken by Channel Dry Dock & Pontoon Company at Cardiff.
(D.O.D. H., 1929A/27.)

BELMONT. — Your 1846/26. Approved to return Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 2130A/26 to BELMONT.)

RORQUAL. — Arrangements are being made for RORQUAL to be taken in hand at Devonport Yard forthwith.
2. RORQUAL is to be sailed accordingly as soon as possible.
(F.O.S., 2214A/27.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.4. — Intend leaving Convoy on meeting GOSSAMER. Destroyers with STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will leave at Cape Orlov.
(BERWICK, 0519C/27.) See Movements.
P.Q.4 escorted by BRAMBLE, SEAGULL, SPEEDY, E.T.A. 1000 tomorrow. Request anticipated date of sailing of Q.P.4.
(S.O. 1st M/S. F., 1643C/27 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

P.W.D.72. — My 1033/25 and 1007/26. "Ounce 1", sailing postponed owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 0617/27.)

O.G.77. — Weather moderating here now. Submit awaiting further instructions for O.G.77.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0835A/27.)

/P.Q.6.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

P.Q.6. EDINBURGH with 2 destroyers is to provide ocean escort for P.Q.6 sailing from Hvalfjord about 5/12.
(ii) R.A.D. (H.F.) report names of destroyers you wish detailed.
(C. in C. H.F., 0923N/27.)
Request ECHO and ESCAPADE may be detailed.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1910A/27 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.L. 92 and S.L. 92 F. To shorten routes both portions are to proceed direct to split positions.
(C. in C. W.A., 1023A/27.)

Q.P.3. Sail convoy at any time before dark that it is ready. If not ready by dark delay sailing 24 hours by immediate signal repeated BEDOUIN.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1046C/27 to GOSSAMER.)
Q.P.3 sailing. Captain Egipko in GOSSAMER.
(GOSSAMER, 1245C/27.)
BEDOUIN, INTREPID sailed Murmansk to R/V Q.P.3.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1533C/27.)
Your 1242C/27. Well done and many thanks for dealing very well with difficult situation.
Very sorry you have had such (corrupt group) times recently.
Goodbye and good luck.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1925C/27 to GOSSAMER.)

B.B.5. Cancel my 1357A/26, owing to weather.
(N.OS.O. Holyhead, 1053A/27 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

S.C.55. Alter course forthwith and steer towards Butt of Lewis. AYRSHIRE is being sailed from Stornoway to R/V with you. When AYRSHIRE is met resume previous course and proceed with AYRSHIRE in company to meet S.C.55.
(C. in C. W.A., 1123A/27.)
As soon as RENONCULE situation is clear detach available ships to join S.C.55 if fuel premits. If fuel does not permit to join Convoy available ships should proceed to Iceland (C) with despatch to refuel before joining.
(C. in C. W.A., 1238A/27 to FOXHOUND.)

H.X.159. Many congratulations on again bringing safely to U.K. all the ships of your convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1158/27.)

D.S.17. My 1304A/26. Code word "Product" will sail 24 hours late.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1234A/27.)

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

D.S.17. (Contd.)

Proceed passing Switha at 1800 today to R/V with NEWARK and convoy in position 192° Skerryvore 16½ miles at 1100A/28. (R.A.D., 1256A/27 to BRIGHTON.)

Convoy F.N.

Capt. (D) 16's, 1044/26. Intend patrol A.M. Q.Z.S 287 10 miles astern F.N. convoy from dark until 0500 tomorrow, then proceed Humber. (EGLINTON, 1518A/27.)

P.Q. Convoys.

S.B.N.O. Archangel's 2316C/17. These stores have arrived. Admiralty 1937A/3/10. Many packages missing, damaged, and pilfered. Radiators not arrived. No supply note received. D. of V. letters V.O.67/41 refers. Oil fuel connections ex LONDON have not arrived. F.O.S. 1727A/7/10. Stationery marked D.S.19652/1-4 and A.78589 not arrived, request repeat of stationery at first available opportunity in ocean escort ship.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1731C/27.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Conveyance of Service Personnel.

A.M. 1936/25/9. Members of the W.R.N.S., A.T.S., W.A.A.F., and other affiliated services including service nurses are to be included in the total allowed for each of their respective services.
2. Para. 1 (f). India Office passengers, for 100 read 150.
3. This signal agreed with services concerned.
4. Addressees pass to Military and R.A.F. authorities and S.T.Os. on their station.
(4th S.L., 1811A/27 to Cs. in C. etc).

North Atlantic.

Hudsons for A/S duties.

Ten Hudson aircraft are to be sent to Gibraltar with the minimum of delay for A/S duties operating under 200 Group. Date of departure to be forwarded by signal.
221 Wellington Squadron is to be sent to Middle East at earliest possible date for A/S duties under No. 201 Naval Co-operation Group. Proposed date of departure also to be communicated by signal.
(Air Ministry, 1055/27, to Coastal Command).

H.G.76 19th D.F.

Sailing of convoy H.G.76 is postponed. 19th D.F. is to move to new patrol area bounded by 35.10 N. 36.00 N., and 06.20 W., and 07.00 W., by dusk tonight Thursday keeping 30 miles clear of Spartel by night.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1246A/27 to Capt. D.19).

Navy and R.A.F. Co-operation.

Are you satisfied that co-operation between Naval and Air Forces at Gibraltar is satisfactory as regards dealing with passage of U-boats through Straits of Gibraltar in the following respects:-
(a) The existence of an area combined H.Q. which our experience has shown is vital.
(b) Inter-communication between H.M.Ships and aircraft by R/T and V/S.
(c) Utilisation for offensive purposes of C.H.L. plots on supposed U-boats.
(d) A/S equipment, in particular Mark XIII D.C. pistols; aircraft flares for night patrols; supply of Snowflake rockets.

/(e)....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Navy and R.A.F. Co-operation Contd.

(e) Training and efficiency of aircraft crews in anti-U-boat operations and knowledge of latest A/S tactics.
(f) Suitability of existing patrols for A/S purposes.
(g) Diversion of every available aircraft from contraband control to anti-U-boat work.
2. If you are not entirely satisfied in respect of all the above items, would you like Captain Creasy to come out for a few days?
3. Would you like a R.N. Officer with experience of A/S work on your staff?
(1st S.L., 1431A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply:1600/28. My 1431/27 para. 2. As there is a passage by air available for Creasy to-morrow, I am sending him as I am sure his experience will be of value to you. (1st S.L.1909A/27 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Sunderlands for Gib.

Request you will send one Sunderland from Freetown and one Sunderland from U.K. to Gibraltar as a temporary reinforcement to the A/S forces there.
(1st S.L., 1812A/27 to Air Ministry).

M.L.Cs. CLAN MACINNES.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1403N/23, F.O.C.N.A's 1542A/26. Approved to ship M.L.C's 33 and 35 in CLAN MACINNES and for STANLEY to escort to Gibraltar.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2020A/27 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.).

South Atlantic.

MARY LIVANOS.

Your 2229/25 para. 6 MARY LIVANOS arrived Lourenco Marques 26/11.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1023Z/27 to Admty).

ASTURIAS.

My 1451Z/25 (1441/25 intended) ASTURIAS is to leave J.33 so as to operate Montevideo 5/12 subsequently patrolling K.32 K.33. R/V with BIRMINGHAM is cancelled. If ALCANTARA has left station for refit, or when she does so, ASTURIAS is to proceed J.33 (c) and (d). Particular attention is to be paid to precautions against sabotage while in Montevideo.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1053Z/27 to ASTURIAS)

/BIRMINGHAM...

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM, ALCANTARA, ASTURIAS.

BIRMINGHAM leaves Plate A.M./28, E.T.A. (Q) P.M./4 with 60% fuel remaining. Oiler ARNDALE in Trinidad Island area P.M./5 with 7900 tons fuel ordered to be at R/V "Apple" (021° S., 029° W). A.M./6 and 9/12 R/V "Plum" (022° S., 028° W). A.M./7, and 10/12, R/V "Grape" (021° S., 027° W) A.M./8 and 11/12 - sequence continuing. Request following information. ECHODALE, size stirrup hose, fuel and diesel if any, any special oiling fittings. DORSETSHIRE, R.D.F. fitted, aircraft carried.
Suggest all shipping be diverted clear of operational area. My 1457/21, not to Admiralty. Request you will sail ALCANTARA from J.33 as necessary and repeat signal to ASTURIAS. Trinidad visit not now required unless fuelling essential. (R.A.S.A.D., 1143Z/27 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1351/29.

Force Q(?)

A.M.1942/24. Sailingsof ALBATROSS, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX is to be delayed until further orders. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1243A/27 to C. in C. S.A.)

SILVERWILLOW, star shell.

British ship SILVERWILLOW, reports that at about 0001Z/24 in 32° 4' S., 6° E., white star shell burst near ship fired from port beam which completely illuminated vicinity. Nothing further seen. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1557B/27 to Admty).

4 Corvettes for Cape.

Your 1824A/24. Following Corvettes detailed for Cape are proceeding with W.S.12 Z., ASTER, MARGUERITE, VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK.
Only two fitted R.D.F. could be sent as remainder are either away on escort duty or under repair. (C. in C. S.A., 1923N/27 to Admty).

MILFORD W.S.14.

Your 1723/A/24 and my 1737N/25. As convoy will have Corvette escort as well as two Hunts propose to retain MILFORD in Freetown area for W.S.14. There is barely sufficient time for her to return Freetown in time for W.S.14.
(C. in C. S.A., 1927N/27 to Admty).

/DEVONSHIRE....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE. — DEVONSHIRE has port inner unit out of action due to wiped bearings. No indication of damaged to blading. Shaft disconnected and 3 other units should give 27 knots.
(2) Repairs with resources here would take 3 to 4 weeks at normal notice but replacements of spare brasses cannot be undertaken without acceptable interruption of normal repair work.
(3) Intend to use her in this condition for patrol in Pauls Rock Area advancing work as much as possible during periods in harbour, but consider she should proceed to Dockyard as soon as situation permits. Consider undesirable send her Simonstown at present.
(C. in C. S.A., 2015N/27 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Caucasia, Nomenclature. — The following geographical nomenclature has been adopted for use in future reference to the undermentioned areas:-
(1) "Caucasia" to be all that area between the line Rostov - Stalingrad - Astrakhan and the line of the frontiers of Turkey and Persia.
(2) Caucasia to be divided into "North Caucasia" and "South Caucasia", the dividing line to be the watershed which is already in effect a political and military boundary.
(3) The words "Caucasus Mountains" to be used to describe the actual mountains.
(A.F.O., 5121, 27.11.1940).

SUPERGA (Italian) — A.1. report dated 26/11 states raft marked SUPERGA, Genova, recently washed ashore in Black Sea near Inada, south of Burgas. SUPERGA, 6154 tons, was last reported at Burgas on 25/9 and Russians claim to have sunk a large enemy tanker in Black Sea at beginning of November.
(D.S., 814).

/GRADISCA....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

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(D.S., 814).

/GRADISCA....

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

GRADISCA. Italian hospital ship, 13,868 tons, received orders through Coltano Radio p.m./26 to continue searching until sunset 27/11, position not known. (D.S.814).

REX, ROMA. New York report of 26/11 states Italians have been forced by Germans to use REX and ROMA liners to maintain communication with Libya. (D.S., 814).

PERSEUS. Cancel Benghazi patrol. Establish patrol in area Q within radius of 50 miles Pylos Light Navarin passing through following positions - 034° 20' 015° 00', 033° 17' 018° 04', 035° 10' 020° 20'. Estimate you will pass through last position about 0600B/29.
(Capt. S.1., 0001B/27 to PERSEUS).
My 0001B/27. Amend route forthwith as follows. From 034° 20' 015° 00' pass through 032° 40', 019° 33' at 0001B/29 approx. thence 035° 35' 021° 10'. (Capt. S.1., 2331B/27 to PERSEUS).

TRIUMPH, THUNDERBOLT. Cancel present patrol. Establish new patrol forthwith in S.W. Aegean in area between 036° 50' N., 025° 00' E., North Coast Crete and line drawn 340°/160° through Antikithera light. TRIUMPH in area S., and THUNDERBOLT in area T. North West and South East respectively of line 045° from Antiailhera light.
(Capt. S.1., 0021B/27 to TRIUMPH, THUNDERBOLT).
My 0021B/27. Leave area S forthwith and establish patrol in area Q within 50 miles Pylos Light Navarin. PERSEUS will be diverted.
(Capt. S.1., 1845B/27 to TRIUMPH).

PARRAMATTA sunk. H.M.A.S. PARRAMATTA torpedoed 032° 20' 024° 35'.
(AVON VALE, 0101/27 to Alexandria W/T)
Am returning Alexandria with survivors. Expected position at 0600, 031° 50' N., 026° 11' E.
(AVON VALE, 0315B/27 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).
My 0315B/27. Survivors scattered over a large area and many could not be picked up. Boats and floats have been dropped. Large flying boats could effectively rescue in daylight. Position of wreck 032° 19' N., 024° 34' E., bow just afloat.(AVON VALE, 0338B/27 to C. in C. Med., R.A. Alexandria).

/Regret.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PARRAMATTA sunk. Contd.

Regret to report PARRAMATTA torpedoed and sunk about 20 miles east Tobruk at 0100/27. PARRAMATTA was escorting merchant ship with emergency supplies of ammunition for Tobruk which arrived safely. Casualties not yet known. Survivors returning to Alexandria in AVON VALE. (C. in C. Med., 1825B/27 to Admty).

18th Division.

Date of arrival Suez. Possible tranfer to Iraq (W.O., 0215/27 to C. in C. M.E., C. in C. India). See Lion Copy.

Refits.

Your 1217B/23. F.O.S. 1312A/20 and 1322A/24 indicated intended reinforcements and an optimum refitting programme.
2. Realised that extent to which you can meet this programme is dependent on the urgency of your operational requirements.
(1st S.L., 0332A/27 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy H/S.

Following received. P.C. and S. of enemy hospital ship 34.40' N., 22.50 E. 240° 13 knots. (A/C K7PH 0915/27).

GLENROY (torpedoed 23/11).

Proceed independently with despatch as soon as ready to join THORGRIM and (?PENALK) escorting GLENROY in tow of Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY who left Mersa Matruh at 0315/27 at 2 knots. Orders to beach GLENROY east of Ras Al Rum or Kanais if Alexandria impossible. Visibility ½ mile report off Mersa Matruh at 0900. Alexandria submarine and exercise sanctuary in force until 1700 today. AVONVALE join from West.
(Malta, 0927B/27, to FARNDALE, ERIDGE, AVON VALE.)
Join GLENROY in tow Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY with THORGRIM and FALK sailed Mersa Matruh 0315/27 to Alexandria at 2 knots. (R.A. Alexandria, 0940/27 to AVON VALE).
Fleet Tug ST. ISSEY cannot control towing under present conditions and second tug is necessary. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1344B/27 to S.O. Force I)
Fighter aircraft have been despatched to your assistance - M2 - 1440 - 4442FI 75 kcs.
(Malta, 1425B/27 to GLENROY).
ST. MONANCE sailed 1230/27 to join GLENROY tow.
(N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 1600B/27 to R.A. Alexandria).
My 0927/27. On joining detach FALK to join KOS 19 escorting PETRELLA and (?2) (?defective) M.Ls. leaving (?Mersa Matruh) 1600 today.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1611B/27 to FARNDALE).
Fighter aircraft have been despatched to your assistance M2 1715 4442. 75 kcs.
(Malta, 1710/27 to GLENROY). Detach AVON VALE to Alexandria. AVON VALE to report E.T.A.
(R.A. Alexandria 1849B/27 to FARNDALE).

/Need .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.11.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Need for R/C aircraft.

If Cruiser Squadrons at Malta are to operate effectively more reconnaissance aircraft must be sent to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1057B/27 to C. in C. Med).

Fleet Movements.

Arrival 26/11 GRIFFIN, QUEEN ELIZABETH, NAPIER, (?KIPLING) HASTY, DECOY, VALIANT, HOTSPUR, JERVIS, NIZAM, JACKAL, AJAX, NAIAD, EURYALUS, NEPTUNE, GALATEA, KINGSTON, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, BULLFINCH, GUILLO. Departure 26/11 CARLISLE, ABDIEL, FALK COCKER. Arrival 27/11 CARLISLE, FLAMINGO, SALVIA Greek Destroyers PAUL GOUNDOURIOTIS, and ASPIS, ERICA, HYACINTH, KLO SOUTHERN SEA. Departure 27/11 KIMBERLEY, GRIFFIN KINGSTON, AJAX, NEPTUNE, EURYALUS, HOTSPUR, NAIAD. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1142B/27 to Admty C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units.
Navarin

One M/V one escort vessel anchored Navarin Bay.
(A/C 7QBF, 1145B/27 to 201 Group)

Enemy Supplies S/M patrols Extended.

It is known that enemy is extremely short of supplies and particularly petrol and is making every endeavour to get these stores to Benghazi and Derna using destroyers to augment weekly supply (?ships). Argostoli, Navarin and Suda Bay are being used as transit ports. Next 10 days are of vital importance and it is necessary to extend time on patrol to 21 or 22 days. Destroyers other than those escorting should be (?regarded as) small merchant ships and attacked accordingly.
(Capt. S.1., 1207B/27 to S/Ms. on Patrol)
See also 2100/27.

Air R/C.

Following R/C is being arranged by 201 Naval Co-operation Group tomorrow 28th A.M. between 034° and 035° N., commencing 020° 00' E., at daylight as far as 015° 00' E., N.O.I.C. Malta is requested to inform F.O.C. 7th C.S. what R/C has been arranged from Malta which should include area between 035° and 036° N., as far as 020° 00' E., if possible in addition to Ionian Sea R/C. (C. in C. Med., 1223B/27 to F.O.7 C.S.)

/Turkish.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Turkish Harbour Defences.	Following from Adm. Kelly. Admty 1900A/23 to you para.6. Could you have prepared for me a clear statement as to what is proposed and what is required from Turks, taking into consideration my 1901B/3 before I continue discussions? Docking plan for H.D. M.L.S. received but no armament or other information as to use, available for putting forward proposed exchange to Turks. (N.A. Angora, 1243B/27 to C. in C. Med).
Libya.	Military situation report. (C. in C. M.E., 1330/27 2316/27 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.
Enemy Units.	5 destroyers 3 M/Vs. 8 knots, position 38.15, 20.30, no attack. (830 Sqdn. 1420/27, to PRINCE DAVID). 5 destroyers 3 M/Vs.in Argostoli harbour at 1426. (V.A. Malta, 1517B/27 to TRUSTY.)
Air R/C.	2 Marylands proceeding to Malta E.T.D. Alexandria 0430/28 will carry out sweep between 034° 00' and 034° 40' (?45)N. reporting enemy sightings. (201 Group, 1531B/27 to C.S.7).
PLATIN, fire.	Turkey Steamer PLATIN fire in number 3 hold cargo Sulphur. Not dangerous but fire has good hold, fire brigade not very strong, 2 4 inch and one 3 inch hoses playing, pump engine keeps stalling. (N.C.S.O. Smyrna, 1553B/27 to S.O.(I) Istanbul).
Force K.	Following from Prime Minister to Commander Force K. Many congratulations on your fine work since you arrived at Malta, and will you please tell all ranks and ratings from me that the two exploits in which they have been engaged, namely the annihilation of the enemy's convoys on 8/11 and of the two oil ships on Monday last, have played a very definite part in the great battle now raging in Libya. The work of the Force has been most fruitful and all concerned may be proud to have been a real help to Britain and our cause. (1st S.L., 1602A/27 to S.O. Force K-)
URSULA programme.	Propose Capt. (S) 10's 1009B/26 be approved. (Capt. S.1., 1619B/27 to C; in C. Med).

/TALISMAN....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.11.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

TALISMAN — TALISMAN sails 1700B/27 direct from end of searched channel through 035° 00' 023° 28' to area X between lines drawn 250 and 340 from Anti-kithera light and within 52? miles of it. Above is a repetition of my 1625B/27. (Capt. S.1., 1627B/27 to C. in C. Med).

Liner and Destroyer bombed. — 26/11. Kalamante - Zante R/C saw 1249 hours 1 M/V 1000 tons 140° Cape Spartivento 75 miles course 340° 10 knots. 6 Blenheims went off with 250 lb.bombs loading very bad weather. Only 2 reached area and attacked liner of approx. 7000 tons with destroyer as escort 309° Homs 18 miles, course west, 8 knots, 2 hits on liner 1 bridge 1 on deck. Dr. hit 1 bomb flames and yellow smoke as result. Same liner seen by 4 Blenheims on 27/11 3 miles east of Tripoli low in water stopped and 300 yards from shore. Blenheims out on dusk attack.

Malta Raid. — Night 26/27. 2249 hours 2 enemy aircraft dropped bombs sea. A.A. claim possible hit. Search by F.A.A. aircraft for debris found nothing. (H.Q. Malta, 1646/27).

Mined Area. — An area enclosed by following points is dangerous due to British Mines. 037° 55.3' N., 012° 22.4' E., 037° 54.7' N., 012° 25.3' E. 037° 53.8' N., 012°21.9' E., 037° 53.2' N., 012° 24.8' E. T.O.O. 1711B/27. (C. in C. Med., 1723B/27, Q.B.59).

QUEEN ELIZABETH. — S.T.O. Suez's 1624/24. It is intended that after completion of U.S.14 QUEEN ELIZABETH should proceed direct from Suez to Singapore for drydocking. (D.S.T., 1726A/27 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Situation report No. 170. — My 1108B/26 Force B returned to harbour 1800/26 but had no encounter with the enemy.
2. C.S.7 sailed again in AJAX with NEPTUNE, NAIAD, EURYALUS and four destroyers for operation in accordance with my 1720B/26.
3. Western Desert. PARRAMATTA sunk by torpedo apparently submarine in 32° 20' N., 24° 35' E.,at 0100/27, while escorting HANNE with emergency supplies of ammunition for Tobruk. Survivors returning Alexandria in AVON VALE numbers not yet known. HANNE arrived Tobruk safely.

/4....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 170 Contd.

4. My 1216/24. GLENROY was beached near Mersa Matruh, now refloated and in tow to Alexandria.
5. APHIS bombarded Gazala aerodrome night 25th/26th (25/26).
6. Schooner MARIA GIOVANNI ran ashore ten miles west of Tobruk in enemy territory night 22/23 with cargo of ammunition. Italian news states crew taken prisoner.
7. Red Sea. GEORGIC further damaged by fire and tow postponed. Cause being investigated. (C. in C. Med., 1807B/27).

UTMOST, SOKOL.

Arrived 27th. (V.A. Malta, 1817B/27).

S.S. DERNA (Italian).

Departure Genoa, 26th. (Barcelona, 1842/27).

JOAO PESSOA (German).

Should complete loading 28/11 and may sail same evening. (Bilbao, 1847/27 to Admty).

GEORGIC fire. CONFEDERATE.

Following is repetition of F.O.C. Red Sea Force 1739B/26 (N.T. in W.D.) Addressed: C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Egypt, (Begins) Regret to report serious fire developed in GEORGIC A.M./26 cause at present unknown. Fire lasted 4 hours and is now out. Ship's plating is buckled and ship has list of 6°. Consider it most unlikely that GEORGIC can be ready for towing by 1/12 hostilities delayed docking CONFEDERATE and am keeping her to repair damage. Full report follows. (Ends) Following is repetition of F.O. Red Sea Force 1157B/27: Addressed as above (begins) My 1739B/26. GEORGIC has now been thoroughly examined by Salvage Officer. Ship is undamaged from point of view of seaworthiness and can keep her date of sailing. Fire was due to extraordinary use of oxycetylene cutter and was principally in the cold storage flat. CONFEDERATE is docking according to programme. (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1949B/27 to D. of S.T.)

/W.S.12 X....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.11.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

W.S.12 X. A.M.1820/17, para 2. Convoy W.S.12 X. will proceed to Suez. 2. Part of the agreement with U.S.A. for use of these ships is that they should be escorted on return voyage from Suez to vicinity of Brazilian Coast. 3. Arrangements should be made to this end, and convoy should be delayed as little as possible. 4. F.O.I.C. Simonstown pass to N.O.I.C. Durban. (A.C.N.S. (F), 2009A/27 to Cs. in C. Med., E.I. S.A.)

10th S/M Flot. State of 10th S/M Flotilla A.M./27 is as follows. URSULA in dock (?to complete) making good fuel leaks. Anticipated ready to sail for (?U.K.) 30/11. P.34 ready for sea and due for patrol P.M./1/12. URGE changing defective generator armature. Anticipated ready and due for patrol P.M./3/12.
UPRIGHT routine docking. Anticipated ready 30/11 and due for patrol P.M./4/12.
UNIQUE recurrence of bearing trouble starboard engine. Date of completion unknown.
SOKOL and UTMOST arrived Malta A.M./27 after 13½ and 12½ days patrol respectively.
Former requires one periscope changing.
UNBEATEN due Malta A.M./28 and P.31 A.M./30, after 12½ and 11½ days patrol respectively.
UPHOLDER 2 days on patrol due Malta A.M./8/12.
(2) Ref. your 1221B/27 and 1207B/27, intend sailing P.34 Friday 28 for patrol south of Cape Spartivento Calabria, and another submarine not later than 1/12 to assist UPHOLDER covering the Strait. (Capt. S.10., 2100B/27 to Capt. S.L)

NIZAM, HASTY. Embark up to 50 tons military stores each and sail 0700/28 to pass through position O at 2000/28 thence Tobruk. Disembark stores and sail when ready to pass through position J by 0800/29 thence direct for Alexandria. Report E.T.A. Tobruk at 1200/28 201 Naval Co-op. Group is requested to provide fighter protection from 1200/28 until dark and from 0700/29 until 1100/29. (C. in C. Med., 2241B/27 to NIZAM, HASTY.)

Motor Boats. Following are required for operation of the D.E.M.S. organisation on this Station. (C. in C. Med., 2248B/27 to Admty).

Enemy Units. 2 merchant ships 2 destroyers P.C. and S. 038° 44' 017° 15' 180° 10 knots. (P.31., 2331B/27 to V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Naval requirements for capitulation of Jibuti.

Following are agreed with C. in C. Med.
(a) General Naval requirements.
1. British and Allied ships to have unrestricted right of entry into the harbour of Jibuti and other anchorages in French Somaliland.
2. British to have the right to search all ships entering the harbours of French Somaliland.
(b) Requirements for the control of Jibuti.
3. The port to be under British Guard and supervision.
4. Stores standing for the maintenance of the British and Ethiopian forces to be free of customs dues but an agreed rental to be paid for storage.
5. Other goods destined for Ethiopia to pay customs dues in accordance with the agreement in force between the French and Italian Governments before the war.
6. Handling charges to be paid for by the British at the usual rates the French authorities to be responsible for finding the labour.
(c) Condition of the Port of Jibuti on being handed over to the British.
7. All ports and harbour facilities are to remain intact.
8. No ships to be scuttled or left damaged in the port or approaches to the port.
9. Cable and W/T stations and telephone communications to be handed over intact.
10. All oil, petrol, coal and other Naval stores to be left intact. If taken over by the British they will be paid for at an agreed rate.
11. All shore defences, minefields, boom and underwater obstructions to be left intact and their exact position disclosed.
12. A.O.C. in C. has also asked that clause should be inserted giving us the right to construct new W/T and meteorological stations in addition to control of existing facilities.
(C. in C. M.E. 0353/27.)
Following additional points should be included in terms. I am asking C. in C. East Africa and C. in C. Med. for any observations
(1) I am studying question of repatriation of surplus military personnel with military and naval authorities and will send you our recommendations. Following points arise out of comparison with Syrian Armistice terms.
(2) In Syria Vichy war material was stocked under British control and after British Military Authorities had selected any required for their purposes remainder was destroyed by French under our control. We might try for this in case of Jibuti.

/(3) ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Naval requirements for capitulation for Jibuti. contd.

(3) Terms should specify that Jibuti Railway shall be handed over intact.
(4) Para (E) (11) of my telegram 3650 provided for British Control of Security Services and communications. A question which will have to be settled is that of right of communication between French Governor and Vichy. Alternatives would be (A) to forbid any contact with Vichy or Vichy Colonies except on matters relating to the capitulation itself and repatriation of French troops (B) to allow communications provided they go en clair or in a cypher of which we hold key and provided we have right to stop any message in either direction which we consider harmful to our interests or security.
(5) Enemy aliens. Suggest we should require them to be removed to British Territory for internment.
(6) Additional clause should provide for release of British subjects (e.g. any of former Consulate Staff) and Free French sympathisers imprisoned in Jibuti and or any interned British or allied service personnel.
(7) Public services should remain in operation.
(8) If negotiations are successful currency question will arise, i.e. severing financial connection with other Vichy territory and fixing exchange rate with sterling. Useful if you could indicate in advance lines on which this could be dealt with.
(C. in C. M.E. 0530/27.)

CARTHAGE EMERALD.

CARTHAGE sailed 0603Z/27 in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 0500Z/24. E.T.A. Mauritius 0800Z/1/12. EMERALD arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0603Z/27 to N.O.I.C. Mauritius etc.)

JENNET, PUNNET, RENNET.

Intended programme Durban 27/11 to Suez 1/1/42.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 0808Z/27.)

Persian Gulf.

Defence requirements against Japanses naval forces. Chiefs of Staff No.205. (1st S.L., 1121A/27 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong. W.D.A.136. The harbour of Hong Kong will be closed to shipping from sunset/29 till sunrise/30. (Hong Kong, 0229Z/27 to China Stn.)

Japanese Navy. Your 2335/26 (N.T.in W.D.) Following based on W/T traffic. 7th Squadron thought to be in Sama area 26/11. Indications 2nd Fleet (group omitted) South China Fleet are mutually affected by signals. Portion 3rd Fleet is in home waters and a portion in South China waters. Can reply be given to my 0753/20. (London press reports re arrival of 4 cruisers at Saigon.) * Comment. 7th Squadron (2nd Fleet) is the squadron of four cruisers which left Japan 18/11 and has not hitherto been located. It is now thought to be in the Sama (Hainan) area, possibly with other units of the 2nd Fleet which is apparently affected by signals for South China Fleet. 2nd Fleet consists of 7 8" cruisers, 6 6" cruisers, 4 aircraft carriers, 32 destroyers and possibly 12 submarines. Units of this Fleet have been sent to Hainan on previous occasions when an operation in South China or Indo-China has been pending.
(N.I.D.4. 27.11.41)
* (C.O.I.S. Singapore 0532Z to Admty.)

S.S.ERIDAN. Intercepted correspondence shows ERIDAN expected Indo China shortly.
(C/S Singapore 0841Z/27.)

VILLE DE VERDUN. My 0327/26. VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Saigon 27/11. (C/S Singapore 1218Z/27 to Adty. (R) C. in C. E.I., S.O.(I) Hong Kong.)

American and West Indies.

W.S.12 X. My 2145/26, for 4 destroyers read 6 destroyers. (B.A.D. 0941R/27 to Admty.)

SURCOUF. My 1728R/19 and A.M.1711A/21. Submarine SURCOUF sails 1500R/27 for Bermuda direct. E.T.A. 0700Q/29.
(B.A.R.M. 1022R/27 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/5 Salvage ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies. - contd.

5 Salvage Tenders.

For B.A.S.R. Admty. 1353A/26. Request following information. (A) Brief details of vessels. (B) Date vessels will be ready to leave. (ii) Request you will contact M. of W.T. representative New York with regard to provision of crews for the 4 vessels at present not manned. Crews should be required to sign on for period at Trinidad and subsequent voyage to U.K.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 10420/27 to B.A.D.)

French Ships.

Casablanca 22/11 A.1. Arrival 18/11 CARIMAND from Oran. Departures 20/11 OUERGHA for Dakar, 20/11 MEDIE II for Dakar and Conakry.
(B.A.D., 1147R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
Casablanca 22/11 A.2. MONTCALM is to be relieved by GEORGES LEYGUES, latter is due Dakar in near future. PRIMAJGUET has sailed for Casablanca.
(B.A.D., 2045R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)
My 12190/15/11. Intercepted letter from Georges Brun on board WYOMING dated 11/11 states "We have been in Casablanca for 15 days. We shall not be leaving for Martinique until the 27th".
(C. in C. A.W.I., 15190/27 to Admty.)

H.X.162

Departure Halifax ANNAPOLIS, HAMILTON to Western R/V, H.X.162.
(S.O.I.Halifax, 1501Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

S.C. and H.X. Convoys, Assembly.

Following from Adm. Little. I have discussed your 1737/22 with C.N.S. Canada who concurs generally in objections to assembly of convoys in a U.S. Port. He considers arrangements proposed in N.S.H.Q's 1508/12 should be satisfactory, facilities at Halifax having been much improved. (2) He agrees, however, that an alternative winter port should be examined with U.S. Authorities for use in case of Halifax being closed by mines or unforeseen circumstances, and that suitable U.S. ports and organizations should be in readiness in case of extension of U-boat activity to U.S.A. coast. (3) Need for extra local escort is fully appreciated. Also that these would have to be provided by U.S. We would propose to open these questions with Navy Dept. after discussing 011512-108. See my 2238Z/26.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1544Z/27 to Admty.)

/ROCKBOROUGH ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies - contd.

ROXBOROUGH. Your 1341/24. ROXBOROUGH can be accepted forthwith. Yard not decided yet. Job No. S.233. (B.A.R.M. 1702R/27 to Admty.)

WARSPITE. Should WARSPITE be delayed to fit S.A. Gear? (B.A.R.M., 1724R/27 to Admty.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 1310R/25 (1312/25 intended) para.(a) (V). As R/V in A.M. 0026A/25 can be reached ILLUSTRIOUS leaving Norfolk 10/12, can I work up at Jamaica until 6th and arrive Norfolk p.m.8/12, thereby spending 4 or 5 days less on unescorted passage?
(ILLUSTRIOUS, 1812R/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Transport of Ammunition, DIDO. W.O. have requested assistance in obtaining early transport of 37 mm. ammunition from U.S.A. to Middle East. Request DIDO may embark as much as convenient before sailing.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1932A/27 to B.A.D.)

ANCYLUS, collision with OLAF FOSTENES. My 2024/26, should read "Expect to arrive 30/11".
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1943Z/27 to Admty. etc.)

ILLUSTRIOUS FORMIDABLE. Your 1312/25 and 1412/26. Concur with intended programme for ILLUSTRIOUS sailing date being adjusted to fit in with the R/V given in A.M.0026/25.
2. Concur generally in FORMIDABLE programme for return to U.K. about 12/12. Actual date of sailing will however have to be governed by the dates when inward A/S escort can be made available, about which a further signal will be made.
3. Not now anticipated that FORMIDABLE or ILLUSTRIOUS should return to America to work up.
4. Request you will confirm in due course that the balance of Martlets bringing the total up to 48 Martlets can be shipped in ARCHER leaving America early January, observing that she is to have 4 T.S.R. for her own protection.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2030A/27 to B.A.R.M.)

Casablanca Intelligence. Casablanca. 22/11. A.1. CHEF MECANICIEN, ARMAND BLANC, left for Dakar. JAMAIQUE, MONTESQUIEU and TLEMCEN have arrived from Oran, LOUP DE MER from Port Etienne.
(B.A.D., 2047R/27 to S.O.I. Freetown.)

/MOA ...

MOST SECRET.

Q

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies - contd.

MOA. H.M. N.Z. trawler MOA due San Diego California 19/12 from Panama for Aboukir 6 days for boiler cleaning, ship is to be routed in co-operation with N.O.I.C. Esquimalt to Suva via Honolulu where fuelling has been arranged, N.O.I.C. Kingston Jamaica pass to MOA.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2051Z/27.)
Bermuda departure MOA in accordance with my 12320/26. Supplied with extract of S.P.02295K to 12/12. Jamaica is to supply any additional extracts required for passage to Colon. After transit of canal will have no recognition signals.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 21590/27.)

OLGA TOPIC. Your 2047R/18. Philadelphia reports Master Greek IGOR states agents in Iquique told him OLGA TOPIC had been sunk, but he found she was safe on his arrival at Colon.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2212Z/27 to S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Australia.

S.O.(I) Jamaica 10150/27 see U-boats reported.

SYDNEY. My 08292Z/25. Leakage of information in Australia and widespread rumours consequent on notice to next of kin may impel Australian Gov. to make early statement at short notice. Beneficial for public if announcement of loss could be accompanied by statement of sinking of raider. Statement will be made on following lines. (Begins) Information has been received from the Naval Board that SYDNEY has been in action with an enemy ship which she sank by gunfire. The information was obtained from survivors from the enemy ship who were picked up some time after the action. No subsequent communication has been received from SYDNEY and it must be presumed she has been lost. (Ends) Request your very early view and of any compelling reason for deferring publication any longer.
(A.C.N.B., 1519Z/27 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

2052/26. By D/F at 2052/26 G.M.T. estimated position of U-boat was within 150 miles of 47° 00' N., 36° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 0015Z/27, to C. in C.A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, Opnav.)

HAWKINS. Several U-boats are believed to be in your vicinity. Proceed at maximum speed that endurance will permit during daylight today 27/11.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0950A/27, to HAWKINS.)

Off Martinique. R.N.O. St. Lucia reports:- U.S. Naval Authorities here have received report Bermuda stating that U.S. army bomber reports sighting submarine off North coast of Martinique afternoon 26th. Master S.S.LESLIE (corrupt group) report to me he sighted object which broke surface near ship in position 6 miles West of Basseterre Guadeloupe possibly submarine or whale.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1015Q/27, to Admiralty, C. in C.A. & W.I., D.N.I., Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington.

Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/27, 1426A/27.)

Submarines Attacked.

By SURPRISE STARWORT. SURPRISE 0616N/26 and 0701N/26. Contact was lost at 0732N/26. Two destroyers, two corvettes, two trawlers and aircraft sent to search. At 1444N/26 VANSITTART reported unknown ship probably U-boat using R/T with Velox call sign on 2410. At 0312N/27 STARWORT attacked contact in 7° 50' N., 14° 45' W., subsequently assessed not submarine. 1030N/27 search abandoned as ships required for other services. No sighting and no other ships in contact throughout.
(C. in C.S.A., 1647N/27, to Adty.)

MOST SECRET

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

The U.S. Naval and Military Authorities today sent out a telegram which placed their forces in the first state of readiness.

Home Commands.

Wick harbour was reopened at 0801 today.

M.T.B's and M.G.B's from Dover at 0320 today off Blanc Nez attacked the escorts of a large vessel detected by R.D.F. at 0019 5 miles south of Boulogne. The escorting vessels appeared to consist of a number of "T" class T.B's, "M" class minesweepers and R-Boats. Our forces were unable to sight the main target but are confident that they damaged the enemy. Most of our vessels were damaged by enemy gunfire and there were some casualties.

C's. in C. today resumed responsibility for air reconnaissances in connection with the possible attempt of enemy units to break out into the Atlantic northabout.

British Air Operations.

The docks at Ostend and Dunkirk were attacked by Bomber Command aircraft last night.

Aircraft of Coastal Command today attacked enemy supply ships off the southern coast of Norway, sinking a small tanker in Hardanger Fiord and possibly doing other damage. Off the Hook of Holland a Flak-ship was set on fire.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations.

3 enemy aircraft raided Kola Inlet today and unsuccessfully attacked ONSLOW and OFFA as they were entering harbour.

S.S. MACBRAE and Norwegian S.S. KNOLL report that whilst in P.W.72 at 2130A today they engaged and hit by machine gunfire an enemy aircraft in 50° 29' N. 5° 20' W. The aircraft dropped no bombs.

Mining.

3 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Jade and Weser Rivers.

MENESTHEUS escorted by LANCASTER sailed at 1402A today for a minelaying operation N.W. of the Butt of Lewis.

Bristol Channel ports were opened today as yesterday.

North Atlantic.

The Admiralty today, in a message to F.O.C.N.A. laid down the policy to be adopted by H.M. Ships or aircraft with regard to attacking U-Boats in Spanish territorial waters.

Special measures are being taken by F.O.C.N.A. to intercept enemy U-Boats which it is suspected will try to pass into the Mediterranean in the near future.

/Owing.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Owing to an acute shortage of oil the Spanish Navy wish to send the naval tanker PLUTON to Venezuela to load for naval storage at Ferrol. N.A. Madrid, suggests no objection should be raised.

A report on Navy and R.A.F. co-operation at Gibraltar is made by F.O.C.N.A. today.

Mediterranean.

Operations against shipping in Navarin.	6 Blenheims set out today to attack shipping in Navarin Bay in very bad weather. At least 5 hits with 250 lb. bombs were obtained on a 5000-ton tanker which was set on fire. SOKOL encountered nets when attempting to enter Navarin. From outside, she attacked a destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits.
S.S. EMPIRE PELICAN, EMPIRE DEFENDER sunk.	It is reported that these two ships, which were proceeding on Government service from Malta to Gibraltar were sunk by aircraft off Tabarka on the coast of Tunisia on 14/11 and 15/11 respectively, and that French naval units picked up survivors.

U-Boat Campaign.

Netherlands S/M O.21 at 0030 today torpedoed and sank German U-Boat (believed to be U.95) in 36° 21' N. 3° 27' W. (about 100 miles east of Gibraltar) and picked up the Captain and 11 other survivors. A second S/M is believed to be in the neighbourhood. It is thought the U-Boat sailed from Lorient on 18/11 and passed the Straits during the night 23/24 Nov.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Party for Russia. My 2305A/26. Cruiser must be 8 inch. (1st S.L. 1135A/28 to C. in C. H.F.).

Air information to C. in C. H.F. Cancel my 1128A/5 and A.M. 1042A/5. Commanders in Chief should resume normal control. (V.C.N.S. 1240A/28).

Collier for Faroes. Collier LESTO has only 350 tons remaining. In view of your 1125/26 request another collier may be sent as soon as possible Faroes. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1256A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

BELMONT. Your 1305A/27. BELMONT will be required to escort AGAMEMNON and CALIFORNIA and will not therefore be available for service in place of READING. (D.O.D. H. 1349A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Corvettes. Your 1315N/26. I much regret that some of my corvettes recently sent to South Atlantic have proved unsatisfactory. Choice was severely limited as the corvettes had to be fitted for tropics and minesweeping and the best ships available were sent. My own difficulties will be appreciated when I tell you that, owing to defects, none of the eight corvettes sent from South Atlantic in exchange has yet been in service since their return, but I realise that this was no fault of yours. (C. in C. W.A. 1912A/28 to C. in C. S.A.)

Relief of IMPULSIVE. Your 1843N/27. Consider it particularly desirable that Capt. (D) 3 should remain at Scapa and that relief of IMPULSIVE should be by another destroyer. FAULKNOR will not be ready until 1/12 and requires practices and ECLIPSE is overdue for boiler cleaning deferred until refit. If immediate relief is necessary request one of 6th D.F. be sent back to Hvalfjord on completion of present duty. (R.A.D. H.F. 1941A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

LEDA.

Your 13120/27. LEDA is to leave Archangel before any serious likelihood exists of being frozen in or damaged when leaving. S.B.N.O. Archangel pass to LEDA. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 09290/28 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Information for Ad. Miles.

I heard from C.N.S. today for the first time of KENYA's operation with Russian Naval Forces against Vardo on night of 25/11. Request again that I may be given previous warning of any intended operations in Russian waters. (Ad. Miles, 1519D/28 to Adty.)
Your 1444/23. Para. one was obviously a muddle. Information really required refers to Soviet Merchant ships and is:-
(a) Dates of sailing from British (including Empire) and American ports.
(b) Destination.
(c) Dates of arrivals and sailings from Persian Gulf where there are no Soviet representatives.
2. Above information should be sent to me.
(Ad. Miles 1532D/28 to Admty.)

Guns for Icebreakers.

Your 2017/27. All guns are for icebreakers.
2. Point five Vickers and 12 pounders will be most welcome and I trust will be shipped by the fastest route possible, possibly in one of H.M. Ships.
3. Your 2017/27 was received after my 1601D/28 was despatched. (Ad. Miles 1809D/28 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Falmouth A/A Defences.

Repeats C. in C. Plymouth 1609/26.
2. It is requested that Air Staff will appreciate and initiate any action considered to be desirable.
(D. of L.D. 0944A/28 to Air Ministry.)

Faroes A/A Defences.

Your 1228A/25. These additional four guns were allocated principally to give moral support to Faroes as Foreign Office reported that numerous unopposed attacks on Fishing Fleet and outlying villages particularly Klaksvig are having adverse effect on population in addition to causing losses of valuable craft. Admiralty have therefore agreed deployment.
2. This allocation is independent of replacement of 2 pdr. VIII by Bofors which will be effected as equipments become available when 2 pdr. will revert to sea service.
(V.C.N.S. 1737A/28 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MINERVE.
TRIDENT.

Codeword MINERVE, "Pulley one". TRIDENT, "Pulley two". (A.C.O.S. 0156A/28).
Intend to sail TRIDENT and MINERVE at 1500A/28 escorted by LORD LLOYD. TRIDENT for Blyth E.T.A. daylight 30th, and MINERVE for Dundee E.T.A. 1730A/29 by the usual route.
C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1347A/28).
My 1347A/28. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1510A/28)

INGLEFIELD.

Cancel my 0956A/27th. (R.A.D. H.F. 0920A/28)

BERWICK.
ONSLOW.
OFFA.

Propose BERWICK, ONSLOW, OFFA should return to Scapa as soon as R.A.F. has embarked to avoid waiting for Q.P.4 which it is estimated will be ready approximate date when SHEFFIELD arrives. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1007C/28).
Arrival Murmansk BERWICK, ONSLOW, OFFA, STELLA CAPELLA, BUTE. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1030C/28).

BLANKNEY.
ARROW.
HARVESTER.

As soon as R.A.F. stores have been embarked request you sail ARROW, BLANKNEY and HARVESTER to Gibraltar. Ships are to proceed at best speed consistent with weather conditions and endurance of BLANKNEY and are to pass through position
A. 050° N. 015° W.
B. 043° N. 015° W.
C. 036° 30' N. 010° W. thence to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A. 1044A/28 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Sailed ARROW, BLANKNEY and HARVESTER in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1044A/28. Code word "Rivet" to limit of aircraft range. Intended speed on passage 15 knots. Routed through Q.Z.F. 18. latest Q.K.A.49. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2103A/28).

SHARPSHOOTER.
HAZARD.
HEBE.

Amend R/V G. to 0900/1. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 1143N/28 to SHARPSHOOTER).

H.44.

Your 1120A/28. My, P.C.S. 150° Nab Tower 4.5 miles, 300°, 5.5 knots. Escort in company. (H.44 1240A/28).

RORQUAL.

Sailed RORQUAL and CUTTY SARK in accordance with S.3's 2235A/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1240A/28).

/Floating.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

Floating Crane.

My 1911/25, 1201/26 and 0934/27.
"Scent" sailed, all with K.B's except CRANE and STALWART.
Para. 1:- Tug STALWART in charge of navigation. Tug EMPIRE HENCHMAN in charge of tow.
Para. 6:- Delete and substitute. Should tug STALWART run short of coal she has permission to leave tow and fuel. S.O. of escort will inform authority concerned. Unless very bad weather is encountered this should not be necessary. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1505/28).

TUNA.

TUNA is to leave patrol after dark/29th routed through 62° N. 2° 1' E. and 61° 30' N. 0° 10' W. to R/V in 060° 51' N. 000° 38' W. at 1200A/30 with escort for onward passage to Holy Loch.
(ii) TUNA is to proceed diving by day when East of meridian of Greenwich thereafter on the surface at C.Os. discretion.
(Capt. S.3. 1621A/28 to TUNA).

P.36.

R/V with M.L's 155 and 160 in 110° Start Point 3 miles at 0900/30. T.B.R. arranged between latitude 049° 30' N. and 050° 49' N. and longitude 003° W. and 004° 20' W. from 0001/30 to 1700/30.
(Capt. S.5. 1701A/28 to P.36).

9th M.S. Flotilla.

Admty. 1725A/21. Request available ships of 9th M.S.F. may be sailed for Harwich to pass Sandhead Buoy at first light on 1st December. Subsequently proceeding by Q.Z.S. 117, 151, 306, 263, and 226 to destination. They should carry out Oropesa search sweep of Q.Z.S. 117 and 151 whilst on passage.
2. If weather is unsuitable on arrival in Downs they should proceed by Q.Z.S. 159, 181 and 212 to Southend for onward routeing.
3. Request fighter protection for whole passage.
(C. in C. Nore 2222A/28 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

ZULU.
SIKH.
FORTUNE.

My 1601A/28 and F.O.I.C. Belfast 1537A/28.
ZULU, SIKH are to sail in company if no substantial delay is entailed. F.O.I.C. Belfast to arrange R/V.
2. FORTUNE is to proceed to Gibraltar at best speed by same route after fuelling at Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A. 2229A/28 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

COMMANDANT DUBOC.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1702/28. Request you will issue onward route from position (C) Destination in first instance is Londonderry.
(D.O.D. H. 2345A/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

BERWICK.
ONSLOW.
OFFA.

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1007C/28. Concur. (At your discretion arrange to arrest (2 corrupt groups) enemy shipping between North) Cape and Petsamo on return passage Scapa. Report intention and route (? agreed) C.S.10.
(C. in C. H.F. 1058N/28 to BERWICK).

Engagement off Dunkirk. M.T.B's and M.G.B's damaged.

Admiralty 0905A/28. An R.D.F. plot of one large vessel and several escorts was detected 5 miles south of Boulogne at 0019/28. All available M.T.B's and M.G.B's, 8 and 2 in number respectively, were sailed to intercept.
Wind was S.S.W. four, sea moderate to slight. Visibility poor. Contact first made off Blanc Nez at 0320 and thereafter intermittently until close to Dunkirk at 0530. M.T.B's made repeated efforts to locate the large vessel but only sighted escorting craft which appeared to consist of a number of "T" Class torpedo boats, "M" Class minesweepers, and "R" Boats. Very heavy gunfire was encountered but despite their persistence M.T.B's were unable to sight the main target.
One of the escorts was damaged by a depth charge and was last seen stopped with three "R" boats standing by. All our coastal craft have now returned the majority having received damage from enemy gunfire.
Casualties two officers one seriously and two ratings one dangerously wounded. Our casualties and damage must be considered very light in view of the strength of the enemy's escort and the duration and persistence of the attack and there is the keenest disappointment that the object was not achieved. (V.A. Dover 1202A/28).
My 1202A/28. Fuller investigation has shown that M.T.B's efforts to locate the main target were carried out with great gallantry, the escort screen being penetrated both from seaward and land side. Their task was made more difficult by the enemy keeping close inshore, passing over in doing so a number of lines of our magnetic mines. Shore batteries fired numerous star shell but, in spite of the temporary illumination caused, no large ship was sighted. Owing to darkness and bad visibility contact with escorts was usually made at such short range that torpedoes could not be fired. M.T.B's and M.G.B's expended much ammunition in these unequal gun encounters and are confident of having done good damage. They report a new type of escort vessel not hitherto seen, longer than an R-boat armed with cannon type guns, and speed up to and possibly exceeding 30 knots. In a sortie supposedly made by R-boats about 2200/27 the enemy shot out the East Varne and No. 8 Light buoys presumably to deny us their use as navigational aids. This did in fact add to the difficulties of our craft in making accurate interception. (V.A. Dover 1555A/28).

/Patrols....

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Patrols.

Weather permitting available M.T.B's of 4th Flotilla are to carry out a patrol off Hook of Holland tonight. Surface vessels met Eastward of 3° 20' E. may be attacked without challenge. M.G.B's will be on patrols 'O' and 'P'. (C. in C. Nore 1320A/28 to BEEHIVE).
3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 as far as Beachy Head turning to the westward by 0100/29. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1523A/28).
Patrol tonight. (1) Two M.G.B's Q.E. (3). (2) Three M.L's Q.E. Six A, shifting to Q.E. Eight at 0330/29.
(3) Three M.G.B's Brown Ridge.
(4) Two M.G.B's I.E. (5). Two M.T.B's off Hook of Holland. (C. in C. Nore 1542A/28).
Add to my 1542A/28. 3 M.G.B's North of Brown Ridge leave Yarmouth 1800. (C. in C. Nore 1739A/28).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 1931A/26. "Polar" should be flown p.m. today and "Bear" tonight 28/29. (D.O.D. H. 1006A/28).
"Bear" in operation during night 27/28 except period 0100N to 0500N. "Polar" will be flown from 1200N to 1530N/28th. (A.C.I.C. 1121N/28).
"Bear" in operation from 1600. My 1121 N/28th "Polar" not flown. (A.C.I.C. 1828N/28).
"Bear" cancelled at 2100N/28. Thick fog. (A.C.I.C. 2135N/28).

Bombing operations.

During day 27/11 there were no operations. On night 27/28 five A/C attacked the Docks at Ostend, where bomb bursts and fires were seen. Another A/C attacked Dunkirk Docks where bombs were seen to explode. (H.Q.B.C. 1500/28).

S.B.R.

S.B.R.'s arranged in (1) Area 52 east of 006° 30' W. from 1800/28 to 1200/30. 2. Area 53 from 0500/29 to 1200/30. (Capt. S.5. 1501A/28 to P.36).

Trials with WALLACE.

C. in C. Rosyth 0951/28, 16 group A/C joining you for trial resumption 1000/29 in the vicinity of Sule Skerry weather permitting.
(C. in C. Nore 1641A/28 to WALLACE).

Contact with HAWKINS

A Sunderland will fly along your track tomorrow passing Scillies at first light. If sighted, pass her your E.T.A. Lizard and S. of A.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1856/28 to HAWKINS).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk. Enemy activity over Murmansk. No damage reported. (151 Wing 1830/28 to Air Ministry).

ONSLOW and OFFA attacked. 3 enemy A/C carried out raid Kola inlet (?) 1200C/28 and attacked ONSLOW and OFFA entering harbour. 7 bombs dropped from 3000 feet and none closer than 1000 yards. No damage. Fighter cover provided during daylight today, but no interception made due to low cloud. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1901C/28).

Mining.

Bristol Channel Ports. My 0924A/26. Similar procedure today. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0957A/28).
Owing to minelaying, ports of Swansea and Port Talbot are closed until 1100/29. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2148A/28).

Sweep of Faroes Passage. Your 1520A/27. Approved to ignore adverse tides when weather and swell are favourable except for one hour either side of lowwater. (A.C.O.S. 1145A/28 to S.O. 4th M/S Flotilla).

N.L.22. Intend to carry out operation N.L.22 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1614A/28).

Thames Estuary. Air activity over the Thames Estuary on night 27/28 was marked between 1845 and 2150. A large number of plots was recorded in the area to the Eastward of the Thames Gate and at least five aircraft were seen and fired at near the Boom. The estimated height of most of them was 3000 feet or more. There were no reports of objects seen or heard to fall in the inner Estuary, except possibly one object at 2000 to South of Medway Gate.
At 1920 two mines were seen to fall and others suspected to have been laid from one or more planes at 3000 feet height near B.4 Buoy (reported in X.D.O's 0915/28).
At 1857 a plane flying Eastward over the inner Estuary when fired at replied with 2 red stars, an incorrect recognition signal.
At 1915 an explosion similar to a premature mine was seen either on the land or shoals near Foulness. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 1750/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats. Anticipate probable attack by E-boat(s) this Friday night on F.N.64 or possibly F.S.58. (C. in C. Nore 1748A/28).

Flak Ships. Reference A.N.72 28/11 position of the two Flak Ships was approx 2 miles South West of Hook of Holland. (Acklington Intelligence 2359/28 to 18 Group).

Navigational.

Ice in Denmark Straits. Ice R/C on 27/11. (A.C.I.C. 0036N/28).

Wick. Harbour opened 0801/28. (R.N.O. Wick 0811/28)

Knock Buoys. As result of R/C by M.Ls today Kentish Knock, Middle Knock, South Knock and K.2 buoys are reported in charted positions. No. 53 buoy is 201-1/2 degs. 8 cables from charted position and North Knock Buoy is missing. (C. in C. Nore 1947A/28).

Casualties and Defects.

LEYLAND. Arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0835A/28).

RENONCULE. Arrived ROSELYS and RENONCULE. 0700. (N.O.I.C. Iceland 0924N/28).

VERITY. My 1041A/27. VERITY is proceeding to Liverpool with defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0949A/28).

BLAIRNEVIS. (Torpedoed 24/11) Chief Salvage Officer reports that timber cargo must be discharged with vessel beached in fairly protected position.
We propose if you concur to tow vessel to Humber and beach on Cleeness Sands. Can you make channel direct in from Cleeness Float to shore safe for this operation. If favourable reply, vessel will leave here in tow about 30/11. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1252A/28 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BLAIRNEVIS, (Torpedoed 24/11) - Contd.

My 1252A. Request information whether rescue tugs are to be used. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1716A/28 to C. in C. Nore).
F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1252A/28 and 1716A/28.
F.O.I.C. Humber 1608A/28 and 1918A/28.
The most suitable day for this tow is 3/12 if Channel to beaching ground can be swept by this time.
2. F.O.I.C. Humber is requested to report when he expects to be ready for beaching.
3. It is required that if possible tugs other than Rescue Tugs based on Yarmouth or Harwich may be provided. (C. in C. Nore 2008A/28).

DORINGTON COURT. (Grounded 26/11)

My 1650A/27. Sailed SOUTHERN SPRAY escorting DORINGTON COURT, CARSLOGIE, and HEIMGAR to Clyde. Amended E.T.A. 1000A/29.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1508A/28).

SNOWFLAKE.

SNOWFLAKE has developed defects requiring 14 days to complete. There are indications that these are due to builders or subcontractors.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1555/28).

HAWTHORN.

HAWTHORN arrived Glasgow. Owners report following damage sustained at Tiree. Dry docking essential. At least 2 to 3 weeks required for repairs.
(P.S.T.O. West of Scotland 1700/28).

EMPIRE TARPON.

My 1830/27. E.T.A. 1800/29.
(EMPIRE TARPON 1730/28 to S.N.O. Gourock).

BOADICEA.

N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1105A/27. Arrangements can be made for BOADICEA to be taken in hand for damage repairs at Devonport.
(D.O.D. H. 2000A/28).

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.77.

Sailed BLACK SWAN, FOWEY and CARNATION escorting O.G.77. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0014A/28).

D.S.17.

Sailed NEWARK in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1226A/27, and 2155A/27.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0645A/28).

/SAN....

MOST SECRET.

Q

28.11.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

SAN AMBROSIO. — Tanker SAN AMBROSIO will be discharged and ready to sail 1/12. If absence of Ocean escort can be accepted propose she should proceed to Iceland escorted by fleet trawler. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 09500/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Scattered Convoys. — When S.O's of escorts report a convoy has been scattered they should include in their signal a recommendation for a R/V the following day, in order that a G.B.M.S. can be made to stragglers. (C. in C. W.A. 1042A/28).

O.G.77. LASSO. — My 2008A/27. Delay was due to night leave being given by the Commanding Officer without my authority. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1133A/28).

Q.P.5. — The five Russian ships in P.Q.4 will be returning to U.K. in Q.P.5. (N.C.S.O. Archangel 13000/28).

P.Q.5. (EL OCEANO) S.C.53. (MERIDIAN). — P.Q.5. Request reasons why EL OCEANO did not sail in P.Q.5. Have you any news of MERIDIAN ex S.C.53. (D.T.D. 1346A/28 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 1346A/28. OCEANO was unable to sail owing to illness of several members of crew. Necessary discharge two to Hospital and replace if possible. Ship will sail in P.Q.6. Senior Officer escort S.C.53 states MERIDIAN not in convoy.
(A.C.I.C. 2137N/28).

W.S.14. — My 0108A/26. Cancel paras. 8 and 12.
2. A/S escort will be provided by
(a) HAVELOCK and BEAUFORT to Freetown fuelling at Ponta del Garda.
(b) NORMAN and NESTOR who will part company in a position which will be given in a later signal and proceed to Gibraltar.
(c) 10 destroyers to R.V(X) or the limit of their endurance.
3. RAMILLIES should detach HAVELOCK and BEAUFORT to fuel at Ponta del Garda as requisite.
4. Depending on date of completion GURKHA may be ordered to join the convoy and to leave it in company with NORMAN and NESTOR.
(D.O.D. H. 1710A/28).

/Diversion....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.11.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Diversion Code. It is proposed to make the following additions to Convoy diversion code contained in A.M. 1748A/5th September -
1. Delete NO and substitute NJ.
2. Add (a) EH, EQ, EX to give wider berth to suspected area near the route.
(b) NK Route considered preferable from point of view of general U-boat situation.
Should be grateful for your concurrence in these proposals. (D.T.D. 1820Z/28 to Opnav).

C.W.58. Completed passage without incident.
(C. in C. Nore 1841A/28).

Shipping destinations in far north. Present indications are it will (?not) be necessary divert merchant ships to Murmansk before arrival P.Q.6 and probably not until P.Q.7. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1910C /28 to, Address S.B.N.O. North Russia, Repeated Adty, Admiral Miles, C. in C. H.F.)

P.Q.5. A.C.I. C.'s 1308N/27 and 1156N/28. Intend leaving Seidisfiord at 0900Z/30th for R/V in position G at 0900Z/1. (SHEFFIELD 2103Z/28 to SHARPSHOOTER).

P.W.B.72. Owing to minelayers P.W.B. 72 is not to pass Scarweather before 1100/29.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 2138A/28).

HOLDERNESS. MEYNELL. Return to Sheerness with F.S. Convoy and not independently. (C. in C. Nore 2327A/28 to HOLDERNESS, MEYNELL).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B sunk — Torpedoed by O.21. (see U/boat Campaign).

U/B's. in Spanish waters. — A.M. 1835A/26 (restricted circulation).
A. H.M. Ships and aircraft by day or night may enter the territorial waters or air space of Spain. Spanish possessions or Tangier to attack any U/boat actually in sight or in contact.
B. By day H.M. Ships or aircraft are not to patrol inside the above territorial waters.
C. By night H.M.Ships only (not aircraft) may enter the above territorial waters in areas which are remote from civilisation.
D. Care must be taken under no conditions to cause damage to persons or property on the shore.
E. The instructions in A.M. 1224/24/2 are in abeyance.
(1st S.L. 0119A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).
The territorial water or air spaces of Spain, Spanish possessions or Tangier may be entered by H.M. ships and aircraft both by day and by night to attack any U/boat actually in sight or in contact G.W.C.5 para. 8 and G.W.O. 92 will be amended.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1534A/28 to Gibraltar Force. Force H. Group 200).

French shipping. — Passings 27/11. Eastward ALGERIE FAUZON KEROMAN all full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0915A/28).

Spanish Navy short of oil. — Minister of Marine has asked me for advice in following case.
Spanish Navy is desperately short of fuel oil. Campsa Monopoly cannot supply amount required for simplest schedule. Cadet ship NEPTUNO programme cancelled owing to lack of fuel. Minister wishes to send Naval Tanker PLUTON to Venezuela to load 4,000 tons crude oil for Teneriffe Refinery. It will then be taken to Naval Storage at Ferrol. Payment to be made by Spanish Gov. Neither Campsa nor Cepsa will have anything to do with this except that latter will do refinery.
Navicert cannot be requested for Naval vessel and he does not wish even temporary abandonment of Naval Status of PLUTON even to extent of putting her under Naval reserve ensign. But there is no concealment of it. Amount will be discounted from quota.

/Have.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Spanish Navy short of oil -Contd.	Have we any comment or objection ? Submit no objection should be raised. Need is undoubtedly urgent. If you prefer I can request information of existing stocks in Naval storage and on board Naval vessels but this should be done when assented and not as a condition. Request instructions. (N.A. Madrid 1100/28 to Admty.).
M.L.244	Your 2125N/25. M.L.244 repairs completed yesterday. If weather appears favourable will sail her with FARADAY if you concur. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208N/28 to C.in C. S.A.).
S.S. HANS SCHMIDT (German).	Arrival and departure Cartagena 28th. Iron Ore. Enemy destination. (Cartagena T.H.I. 1215/28 to M.W.T.).
Operations by O.21.	Sightings (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/28) See Lion Copy.
A.S. measures.	Your 1203A not to S.O. Force H. or Group 2. (?Highly) probable a number of U/boats will try to pass into Mediterranean in near future. (ii) Group one is to operate to Eastward of Meridian 7° W. between parallel of Cadiz and Larache but keeping outside 30 miles radius from Spartel during hours of darkness and west of 6° 5' W. unless in contact. (F.O.C.N.A. 1558A/28 to Capt. (D) 19).
Navy and R.A.F. co-operation.	Your 1431A/27. (a) Co-operation extremely close despite lack of combined H.Q. which are now well under construction. (b) Hitherto lack of sufficient aircraft has prevented exercises but communications are (?unchanged). (c) R.D.F. surface plots are being used but organisation is still being developed and no satisfactory results have yet been obtained largely owing to lack of destroyers and difficulties arising from large amount of neutral traffic. (d) No experience yet with Mark XIII pistols. Night contacts adequate. A.S.V. gear in Catalina definitely not efficient. Understand from A.C.M. Joubert that this is recognised and improvements are in hand. Snowflake equipment only received last convoy and ships are being fitted as they

/come.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Navy and R.A.F. co-operation -Contd.	come in hand for boiler cleaning. AZALEA only completed. (e) Daily average 3 to 4 Catalinas only available which have been fully employed on escort and R/C duties but rare opportunities for exercising fully taken advantage of. Efficiency consequently none too good. (f) Existing patrol believed to be best. Adequate forces however are detailed as available. (g) All available aircraft are now employed on A/S. At present only 6 Catalinas are serviceable. (ii) Creasy's advice will be greatly appreciated. (iii) Yes please (corrupt group) Tollemache if suitable officer available. (F.O.C.N.A. 1600A/28 to Admty.).
COMMANDANT DUBOC.	Ref. Admty. 2258A/25. Intend sailing F.S.M. COMMANDANT DUBOC at (?10)00A/29 for U.K. routed through position (A) 036° 00' N. 010° 00'W. (B) 038° 00' 013° 30' (C) 045° 00' 013° 30' S.of A. 13 knots. Request destination and onward routeing instructions. (F.O.C.N.A. 1702A/28 to Admty.).
CLYDE.	Intend to sail CLYDE P.M. 29 for A/S patrol in area 035° 50' N. 003° 20' W. -50-30. (F.O.C.N.A. 1710A/28).
Catalina patrols.	Understand Group Capt. Halley has received urgent signal from H.Q.C.C. that area 50 to 150 miles west of Portugal should be examined as closely as possible during next few days. (2) With average of 3 to 4 Catalinas available daily to attempt this would leave none for close co-operation with hunting forces and I am not prepared to do so unless some intelligence of which I am at present unaware indicates that this is advisable. (3) Moreover in conditions of good visibility now obtaining, and inefficiency of A.S.V. in Catalinas here, consider they are much better employed in close c-operation with hunting forces. (4) I understood from H.Q.C.C. that inefficiency of A.S.V. of Catalina is well known and improvements are already in hand. (F.O.C.N.A. 1742A/28 to Admty.). Your 1742/28. H.Q.C.C.'s. message was "for consideration" not an order, as a suggestion that Catalinas should be employed on long range work. (D.O.D. (F) 1951A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.).

/024.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

0.24. Intend to sail Netherlands Sub. 0.24. p.m./30 for patrol in area 040° 00' N. 013° 00' E - 80 - 110 routed through position B 036° 30' 001° 30' west C 038° 20' 009° 00' east. 0.24. will dive by day on 1/12 and pass through C about 2000/3 thence spend from p.m./4th to p.m./5th within 20 miles of Ustica Island. 0.24 will return to Gibraltar on 23/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1810A/28 to C.in C. Med.) Cancelled by 2134A/29. q.v.

EMPIRE AUDACITY Operations. Your 1554A/27 and Admty. 1943A/25 do not intend to embark Swordfish in EMPIRE AUDACITY except in emergency for following reasons: (a) Swordfish available are of V and W series (b) no R/T is (?supplied) (c) no observers or air gunners available in Gibraltar (d) operation in EMPIRE AUDACITY without extra wires not considered desirable.
(ii) EMPIRE AUDACITY will have 5 serviceable Martlets propose to operate her in accordance with your 1920A/ (?7) as extra escort to H.G.77.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1840A/28 to C.in C. W.A.).

LEGION ISAAC SWEERS. LEGION and ISAAC SWEERS are to adjust 4 inch Mk. XVI S.A.P. outfit to 150 per gun landing practice and H.E.T.F. as necessary. Report quantities after adjustment.
2. ISAAC SWEERS report amount of Bofors ammunition now on board.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 1931A/28 to F.O. Force H.).

South Atlantic.

SEVERN Your 1945/26. Approved. Regret no other submarine can be spared at present.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0052A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).

ASTER MARGUERITE ECHODALE. Cancel my 1927 N 27. In view of the trend of events to southward am keeping ASTER and MARGUERITE with ECHODALE and they will therefore not escort W.S. 12 Z. R.A.S.A.D. may find them useful. I will get them on to the Cape as soon after 10/12 as possible.
(C.in C. S.A. 1115N/28 to Admty.).

/WESTCHETAC.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

WESTCHETAC	Overdue shipping. U.S. WESTCHETAC due Capetown 22/11 not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1155B/28 to Admty. etc.).
Gold Coast shipping.	Your 1311N/11. Subject to your being able to provide adequate patrols the M. of W.T. suggest that a temporary solution would be that one month's shipment from Accra direct to Ocean ships should be confined to one escorted convoy of four ships staying at Accra for 3 or 4 days. It is estimated that each ship should load about 600 tons cargo daily provided former loading facilities are still available. 2. The suggestion of coastal feeder service is being examined but it is feared that transhipment into ocean vessels will further congest the main ports. 3. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1202A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).
FARADAY COWSLIP	Your 1746A/26. Concur but would it be possible to sail FARADAY with local escort ahead of COWSLIP so that COWSLIP could overtake and continue escort to Bathurst. (C.in C. S.A. 1231N/28 to F.O.C.N.A.). Reply yes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1105A/30).
W.S.12 Z. MILFORD.	Your 1927/27. I consider that all possible A/S escort should be given to W.S. 12Z. 2. The situation may have changed by the time W.S. 14 arrives in South Atlantic. 3. Even if MILFORD cannot get back to Freetown in time to leave with W.S. 14 she will be available to augment its escort in the Cape area. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1311A/28 to C.in C. S.A.).
Diversion of M/V's.	Following from N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires (begins). In view of report from Chile of possible enemy activity I have been sending ships from Rio de la Plata bound for West Coast into Punta Arenas for onward routeing. Request instructions as to advisability of continuing 1610/25.(ends). (C.in C. S.A. 1513N/28 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/ORONTES.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. -Contd.

ORONTES. H.M.T. ORONTES has endurance of only 16 days at 18 knots insufficient for route in accordance with amendment F.O. 40 to Admty's ?00'1/1/3? with sufficient reserve. Intend sailing her direct to arrive with three to four days reserve. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1617B/28 to Admty.). Reference my 1617B/28 Master now states ship can only do direct route at 17 knots leaving reserve of 4 days. This includes allowance for zig zag. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 2345B/28).

CANTON DEVONSHIRE. CANTON is to R/V with DEVONSHIRE in 004° 00' N, 025° 00' W. at 1600N/30 and report to DEVONSHIRE the area which has been searched. (C.in C. S.A. 1721N/28 to CANTON and DEVONSHIRE).

W.S. 12 Z escorts. My 1923/27 and 1927/27. ASTER, MARGUERITE are not now available to join W.S. 12 Z. (2) Anti-sub escort of this convoy will now be MILFORD, SOUTHWOLD, DULVERTON, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK. All these and ROYAL SOVEREIGN fuel Pointe Noire. (3) SOUTHWOLD and DULVERTON will be detached to fuel Simonstown and are subsequently to be sailed at best speed to Mediterranean. (4) MILFORD, VERBENA, HOLLYHOCK will accompany convoy to Durban and will come under orders of N.O.I.C. Simonstown until further orders. (C.in C. S.A. 2127N/28 to N.O.I:C. Simonstown).

DEVONSHIRE. DEVONSHIRE left Freetown p.m./28 for patrol in H. 34C. (C.in C. S.A. 2221N/28 to Admty.).

O.S.11. Arrivals 28/11 with Convoy O.S.11. BRILLIANT, BERGAMOT, CROCUS, ORCHIS, SOUTHERN PRIDE, NIGELLA. (S.O.I. Freetown 2355N/28 to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UTMOST. — Congratulations at his recent great success. (F.O.S., 0001A/28.)

S.S. PLATIN. — My 1553B/27 fire on PLATIN extinguished. (Smyrna, 0836N/28.)

Destroyer hit by SOKOL. — Mine reported between Pylos and (?) Spakteria Island. SOKOL reports encountered net when attempting to enter Navarin. Aerial photographs revealed nothing. From outside SOKOL attacked one destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits. (Capt. S.1., 1145B/28 to TRIUMPH.)

Black Sea Situation. — (1) Military situation at Sebastopol unchanged but town considerably damaged.
(2) No attempts as yet by Germans to cross Kerch Straits.
(3) Unconfirmed report that 6 German and 2 Italian divisions are being moved from Roumania towards Turkish frontier.
(4) Rostov is in Russian hands and Russians counter-attacking. Germans bringing up reserves.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 1214/28 to Admty.)

Your 1920B/18 (N.T. in W.D.)
It is not the intention to abrogate your responsibilities in any way.
2. The procedure outlined and which has worked well at home was laid down in view of difficulties in Naval areas abroad in co-ordinating the requirements of the Admiralty and Ministry of War Transport.
3. Conditions in the various areas differ widely in relation to Fleet requirements, Supply Services, both Naval and Military, and also to the need for maintaining at the highest level, the amount of merchant tonnage essential to the war effort.
4. In many cases reference home has to be made in order to divert shipping as necessary to make the best use of facilities and in some areas due to lack of co-ordination there have been unnecessary delays.
5. The purpose of the local committee subject to your over-riding authority would be to ensure a close liaison between the various interests and to smooth out difficulties due to demands for dockings and repairs being in excess of facilities available, but with the special conditions on your station you may desire to make other arrangements.
(Admty., 1312A/28 to C. in C. Med.)

/3 enemy....

MOST SECRET

Q

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

3 enemy destroyers.

3 NAVIGATORI Class destroyers one apparently from Argostoli 2 from the northward in 038° 03' N. 020° 21' E. course 155° speed 23 knots accompanied by aircraft.
(TRUSTY, 1401B/28 to S.1., (R) S.10, C. in C. Med., S.O. Force K.)
My 1401B/28. It is possible all 3 ships sailed from Argostoli. Rain squalls foiled my attack. Weather report.
(TRUSTY, 2021B/28 to S.1.)

S/M Patrols.

P.34 leaves p.m./28th for area G 037° 30' 016° 05', 350° (? 49) 30 concentrating in vicinity of 037° 48' 016° 05'. Another submarine will leave p.m./1/12 for area E 037° 00' 015° 21' 350° 57 20 concentrating in vicinity of 037° 57' 015° 30'.
Maintain present position as far as possible in area F 037° 03' 015° 45' 350° 57 20.
Vital to stop petrol supplies next 10 days. Destroyers may be utilized for this and if encountered not acting as escort should be attacked torpedo fire being as for small merchant ship.
(Capt. (S) 10, 1630B/28 to UPHOLDER.)

S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC, Rubber for Germany.

C.G. Tangier reports:- American Observer Oran informed 21/11 by reliable source that 96 goods wagons crude rubber arrive there 15/11. None of this has yet been loaded but it is understood that some is to be shipped in SERAFIN TOPIC Yugoslavian Steamer recently handed over Italy. It is hoped to receive advance news this ship sailing. Ends.
2. SERAFIN TOPIC is to be regarded as enemy ship for the purpose of para. 4 of my 0138/13.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1631A/28 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, S.O. Force H, (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1748A/26. America reports crew of about 51 Italians arrived Oran this morning.
(GREENLEAVES, 2321/28 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

OLYMPUS.

My 1158B/26th.
Amend route to pass through (? 036°) 30' 013° 30' after leaving 037° 16' 012° 56' 275
REGENT leaves Malta p.m./29th direct from North-west channel to latter (? position)
(Capt. (S) 10, 1717B/28 to OLYMPUS.)

/Air....

MOST SECRET

Q

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air Operations.

1 Blenheim out to attack M/V off Tripoli see my 1258 found nothing. 5 Blenheims out to attack shipping Argostoli found 5 destroyers and 3 small M/Vs. Barrage by destroyers S.N.O. from shore so intense that no attack was made 4 - 250 lb. G.P. bombs dropped on sailing vessel 300 tons no hits. 1015 hours. 1 possible liner 4000 tons 162° Correnti Island 29 miles course S.
Night 27/28. Special Wellington search East Ionian Sea found nothing. 5 R.A.F. aircraft out to attack Castel Benito aerodrome in bad weather. One returned. Bombs dropped, 1850 - 1912 starting 2 fires. Bad weather at Benghazi.
21 Wellingtons highly successful attack Naples 1806 to 2105 hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/28.)
Hits Royal Arsenal Torpedo Factory I.M.A.M. Airframe Works Railway Junction Engine Sheds Railway Station Marshalling Yards Storage Depot 2 factories and A.G.I.P. oil storage setting 3 oil tanks ablaze huge column of smoke to 3000 feet. One 4000 lb. bomb on Royal Arsenal caused terrific red explosion. Sheets of flame from railway junction hit by 4000 lb. bomb rose to 200 ft. Total 16 fires some visible 50 miles. 1 C.R. 42 hit and driven off. 28th. Nothing seen by East Sicilian and Corfu Cephalonia reccos. Delivery Marylands sighted 0754 hours 1 Hospital ship 14000 tons 212°. Matapan 114 miles course 340°. 14 knots. 6 Blenheims out to attack shipping Navarin Bay in very bad weather. 1 bombed and machine-gunned 1110 hours 1 laden M/V 800 tons escorted 1 destroyer entering Navarin. Near misses. Remaining 5 attacked 1100 hours 1 tanker 5000 tons escorted 1 destroyer in Navarin Bay. Twenty 250 lb. G.P. bombs dropped on tanker mast height scoring at least 5 hits causing clouds black and white smoke and flames up to 200 ft. visible 50 miles.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1801/28.)

Air R/C for Force K.

Wellington call sign A M 9 D leaves 1930 reaching Navarin at about 2230 then turning down track to (? 1100) position then back eastwards previous course if time permits.
Negative report by 0115/29 at which time return to Malta to usual code report by V S or W/T and linking report if possible.
(V.A. Malta, 1837B/28 to S.O. Force K.)

/Intelligence....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Intelligence for Force K and C.S.7.

One destroyer speed 20 knots with important cargo expected to pass through 37.16 N. 19.00 E. at 1200/29 thence 157 until 1630 thence 203 until 2300 thence 155.
(ii) Only one destroyer in Navarin today one destroyer and one merchant ship approaching. Blenheims destroyed one tanker there.
(iii) Destroyers reported by TRUSTY 1401B/28 may take (? route) of (corrupt) present target.
(V.A. Malta, 1918B/28 to S.O. Force K, (R) F.O. 7 C.S., ? C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Net Defence, Pylos.

Indicator net searched (? 30) feet stretched 130° from Plitlos (? Pylos) Light to mainland. H/F A/S transmissions occurred during the night across entrance.
(i) Net stretches from Pylos light in (? direction) 130° Southern shore. It held Pol. Sub. SOKOL proceeding 2 knots at 40 feet and fired indicator charge. SOKOL withdrew after few minutes by going astern, flooding and pumping (? proved) ineffective, depth remaining constant.
(ii) Net is invisible from surface and allows surface traffic to proceed unaffected. (? Calculated) to stretch from 30 feet downwards and is patrolled by 2 motor boats who operate when indicator charge fires. Torpedoes fired successfully over net at destroyers in position 7 cables 010° from Pylos Island Light.
(iii) A/S transmissions at frequencies above 10,000 kcs. recurring from sunset to sunrise across entrance. Shore defences observed near Pylos Island light and new earth works and emplacement noticed between bearings 116° and 135° from same position. Lamp communications between these 2 places and Pylos (? utilized) frequently at night.
(Capt. S.10, 1925B/28, 2051B/28 to TRIUMPH.)

Force K.

Arrival UNBEATEN. Departure AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY, P.34, on 28/11.
(V.A. Malta, 2008B/28 to Admty.)

U/B.

One unidentified S/M on surface 031° 53' 029° 04' (? which dived) immediately.
(PROTEUS, 2120B/28 to Capt. S,1.)

Enemy Unit.

Italian W/T activity probably Cruiser between 060° and 075° from Malta.
(V.A. Malta, 2307B/28 to S.O. Force K., C.S.7.)

/Italian...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Italian battle fleet.	There are indications that Italian battleships and cruisers may be at sea. (D.D.I.C., 2011A/28 to C. in C. Med., C.O.I.S. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, S.O. Force K.)
SOKOL, attack on destroyer.	Mines reported between Pylos and Spanteria Island. SOKOL reports encountering nets when attempting to enter Navarin. Aerial photographs reveal nothing. From outside SOKOL attacked one destroyer at anchor and obtained 2 probable hits. (Capt. (S) 1, 2155B/28 to TRIUMPH.)
Intelligence for TRUSTY, PERSEUS.	R/C indicates likelihood of additional A/S patrol in your area during next few days. (Capt. (S), 2351B/28 to TRUSTY, PERSEUS.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

JUPITER, ENCOUNTER.	Departure 0245Z/28. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0430Z/28).
PRINCE OF WALES.	Wearing flag of S.O. Force G arrived Colombo 0400Z/28. (C. in C. E.I. 0432Z/28).
DAUNTLESS.	Colombo departure 0455Z/27. (S.O.(I) Colombo, 0630Z/28).
Q message.	Ship West of Karachi who originated a QQQQ message about 0850 G.M.T./28 report name and position. (C. in C. E.I., 1116G.M.T./28 to G.B.M.S. 3 B).
BRAUNFELS, DRACHENFELS, EHRENFELS, (German) ANFORA, (Italian).	Recent reports indicate that enemy ships, refuging at Mormugao, India may try to escape. List as side heading. (D.S.815)
Defences Nancowry.	My 1550/25. In fourth sentence for "Removal exercises" read "Maintenance might become impossible". (C. in C. E.I., 1134A/28 to Admty).
Jibuti.	Re terms of surrender. (C. in C. M.E., 2255/28 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

China.

Saigon Telegram.	Following for C. in C. Far East from Chiefs of Staff. Number F.E.46. Ref. telegram No. 266 from Saigon to F.O. What do you make of this and what preparatory action, if any, do you propose? (1st S.L., 0110A/28 to C. in C. China)

/VILLE....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

VILLE DE VERDUN. (French).

From Saigon. Arrived 27/11. (Saigon, 0259Z/28 to M.W.T.)

Suspicious Ship 23/11.

Ref. S.O.(I) Wellington 0354Z/12 Para. 2. S.O.(I) Wellington reports that at 0550Z/23 sighted in 010° 34' S., 177° 19' W., unidentified large ship apparently tanker. Description flush hawser deck, funnel aft, 3 masts. Course 270°. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0347Z/28 to Admty).

DRAGON.

Arrived Singapore 28/11 from Escort Duty. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0947Z/28 to Admty etc).

U.S.N. Liaison.

Your 2026/19. I concur in principle with C. in C. China but propose to make further signal after visiting Manila. (S.O. Force G., 1050Z/28 to Admty).

Liaison with Netherlands C. in C.

Ref. C.O.S. F.E. No. 36.
1. You will repeat to Netherlands Naval C. in C. in Netherlands East Indies and to U.S. Commanding General in Far East (a) any telegrams which you may send under the instruction of para. 3 of above telegram (b) any message which you may receive from any of the authorities mentioned in paras. 4 and 5 of above telegram.
2. Netherlands Govt. have instructed their diplomatic representatives in Tokyo, Chungking, Shanghai, and Bangkok to pass on to H.M. Representatives for transmission to you any warning sent by them to Dutch Govt. in London. Any message you receive from above posts should be repeated as stated in para. 1 (b) above even if originating from Dutch.
3. Netherlands Govt. have agreed to procedure suggested in last sentence of para. 5 of C.O.S. F.E. No. 36. U.S. Govt. have not yet agreed.
4. Please confirm with Netherlands Naval C. in C. and U.S. Commanding General that they will similarly inform you of any information they may send to their Governments. (W.O. 1630/28 to C. in C. Far East).

VILLE DE VERDUN (French).

Following is a repetition of my 1218/27:- My 0327/26, VILLE DE VERDUN arrived Saigon 27/11. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1746Z/28 to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Norfolk sailed.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 0900Z/28 to Admty repeated B.A.D. etc).
ILLUSTRIOUS 1812R/27. Concur in ILLUSTRIOUS remaining at Jamaica until 6/12. B.A.R.M. pass to FORMIDABLE.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0932Q/28 to B.A.R.M.)
ILLUSTRIOUS 1812R/27. No objection.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1345A/28 to B.A.R.M.)

H.X.162 escort.

H.X.162 Unit 4.1.1 designated escort. Composition CHARLES F HUGHES (S.O.) GLEAVES, (?LANGDALE) MADISON, STURTEVANT. (O.P.N.A.V. 1345/28).

THORSHOVDI collision.

H.X.161 (THORSHOVDI)(Nor) returned after collision with escort vessel.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1352Z/28 to Admty).

BATTLEFORD (S.C.57).

BATTLEFORD departed Sydney as part of escort S.C.57 to (?Western) R/V thence St. Johns N.F.
(N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., 1405Z/28 to S.O.I. Halifax).

ROXBOROUGH.

My 1702/27 ROXBOROUGH can be received at the Navy Yard Charleston. Request ship may arrive as soon as possible and date communicated.
(B.A.R.M., 1530R/28 to Admty).

WARSPITE.

Your 1724R/27. No. but work should be progressed as far as possible without delaying ship. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1638A/28 to B.A.R.M.)
(amended 1648A/29)

Falklands Defences.

Please supply information as to defences of the Falkland Islands to meet request from Navy Department. (B.A.D., 1959R/28 to Admty)
Reply: 1033/30.

Casablanca Intelligence, ALGERIE, FAUZON, RHEA.

My 2017/22. Casablanca 26/11 (1) ALGERIE which was to have left on 22/11 with 2640 tons of Manganese has been delayed to take on further commercial cargo. She sails P.M./26 in convoy with FAUZON carrying 7000 tons Grain for Marseilles and Tanker RHEA with Peanut Oil for Algiers, escorted by 1 destroyer.
(B.A.D. 2047R/28 to S.O.(I)s. Freetown, Gib).
N.I.D. Comment: ALGERIE and FAUZON passed Gibraltar eastwards on 27.11.41. There is no information concerning movements of Tanker RHEA.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

28.11.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Destroyers from Med.	Your 1639A/31 C'wealth Govt. approve that 4 Australian destroyers should (?join) China Station as they become ready for service. Anticipated dates of completion of refit in Australia of STUART and VOYAGER are end of March and end of February respectively depending upon receipt of essential materials from U.K. (A.C.N.B., 0527Z/28 to Admty).
Raider Identity.	My 1700Z/27. Consider KORMORAN was raider "G" (?number 41) namely STEIERMARK (vide C.A.F.O. 422 number 645). Second (?Engineer) states that ship was STEIERMARK. (A.C.N.B., 0812Z/28 to Admty etc).
CAP DES PALMES.	Your 1515A/25. British Consul Noumea confirms that CAP DES PALMES sailed for Papeete. (A.C.N.B., 0837Z/28 to Admty).
LE TRIOMPHANT.	Your 0800Z/25. Programme approved. (D.O.D. (F), 2150A/28 to LE TRIOMPHANT).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.11.1941.
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Re attacks on U/B's. in Spanish territorial waters. (1st S.L. 0119A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See North Atlantic.

S/M sighted off Martinique — S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1015Q. Request U.S. Authorities ~~to~~ be asked for further details of sighting.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1302Q/28 to B.A.D Washington).

1414A — There may be a U/B in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 1414A/28 to P.511).

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1416A/28, 1432A/28).

26/11 — Ref. R.N.O: St. Lucia 1015Q/27. U.S. S.S. LESLIE sighted object 1750Q/26/11. U.S. Navy plane Pat. ?9008.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1552R/28 to Admty. etc.)

2120B — One unidentified submarine on the surface position 031° 53' 029° 04' (?which) (?dived) immediately.
(PROTEUS 2120B/28 to (S) 1. Repeated S/Ms. on patrol).

Submarines Attacked.

By O.21 U.95 sunk. — Torpedoed German U/B in 036° 21' N. 003° 27' W. 12 survivors. Second believed to be in neighbourhood. (O.21 0050A/28 to F.O.C.N.A.) (F.O.C.N.A. 0406A/28 to Admty.) 1044A/28 to C.in C. Med. V.A. Malta, Admty.
V.A.C.N.A. 0406A/28. Name of Captain 'Gerd Schrieber'. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1506A/28 to Admty.).
At 0030/28. U/B followed O.21 and challenged. O.21 fired 2 stern torpedoes, one of which sank U/B. O.21 rescued Captain, 4 officers and 7 ratings of a total complement of 48.
As U/B challenged it is considered she expected other U/B's. in vicinity. (F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/28).
F.O.C. North Atlantic 1044A/28. Believed to be U.30 sailed Lorient 18/11 passing Straits night 23/24 November. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1708A/28 to Admty.) My 1708A/28. For U.30 read U.95 (S.O.I. Gib. 1152A/30).
My 1044A/28. In view of the desirability of establishing as soon as possible date of passage through Straits, knowledge of other U/B's. in company, and lack of early opportunity for return of prisoners to U.K. I have authorized interrogation of these prisoners. (F.O.C.N.A. 1926A/28 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

6

War Diary.

28.11.1941
Friday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. -Contd.

By LADY MADELEINE

LADY MADELEINE sighted p.c. obtained contact and dropped pattern d.c. Regained contact, sighted c.t. fired 2 rounds, dropped 2nd pattern ditto lost contact. Area searched nothing further found. Escort rejoined convoy. My position is 059° 28' N. 015° 15' W. (BEAGLE 2130Z/28 to C.in C. W.A.) BEAGLE escorting convoy O.N.40 (D.O.R. 29/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The LUTZOW at Kiel was seen undocked this afternoon.

Convoy F.N.64 was reported to have been attacked by E-boats early this morning between Cromer and the Outer Dowsing. S.S. ASPERITY, and CORMARSH were sunk, but it is thought that the former at least may have been sunk by mines laid by E-boats and not by E-boat torpedoes (See also 30/11 Mining) To cover the retirement of the E-boats the most northerly of the 3 units of M.G.Bs. patrolling near Brown Ridge was ordered to move to the northward. M.G.Bs. 86 and 89 engaged one or two E-boats, which were hit many times but escaped; M.G.B.89 was hit some 30 to 40 times and was damaged and had some casualties. Weather conditions prevented air co-operation.

37 ships of Convoy S.C.53 have arrived after being delayed 5 days by re-routeing and bad weather: S.S. EMPIRE DORADO was sunk in collision on 20/11, and S.S. MERIDIAN and CRUSADER were missing at M.O.M.P.

Convoy S.C.54 of 64 ships has arrived complete.

British Air Operations.

Two Hudsons of Coastal Command bombed two enemy coastal merchant ships this afternoon near the Maas Light and badly damaged or destroyed one of them.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Owing to further minelaying last night it will not be possible to revert to normal working in the Bristol Channel for at least 7 days. Until further notice Swansea and all ports to the east of Swansea will be open from 1100 until 2200 daily.

North Atlantic.

It is stated that Yugoslav S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC at Oran, which the Vichy French recently handed over to Italy is to sail with crude rubber for the enemy. Netherlands S/M O24 leaves Gibraltar tomorrow to try to intercept the ship off Oran, but F.O.C.N.A. considers her chance of selecting the correct target is slight especially if the ship is in convoy.

Mediterranean.

Operation B.S.

There were indications last night that Italian battleships and cruisers might be at sea. THRASHER, P.31 and UPHOLDER were ordered to patrol in the approaches to Taranto and PERSEUS, THUNDERBOLT, TRUSTY and TRIUMPH to carry out operation B.S. further to the southward. P.34 is to take UPHOLDER's place covering the S.E. approach to Messina.
S/M P.31 reported at 1720B having hit 3 enemy warships in a force of 3 cruisers and an unknown number of destroyers which she attacked in 39° (or 32°) 20' N., 17.33 E. (about 70 miles S.S.E. of Taranto). Although due to return to Malta a.m./30 she has been ordered to remain on patrol unless her torpedoes are expended. (it was subsequently reported that P.31 fired at a cruiser, which she probably sank).

/2....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

2 enemy torpedo bombers attacked D.2. at 1635 without making any hits.

French S.S. SURCOUF (intercepted by CORNWALL 25/11) arrived at Aden today under armed guard.

Libya and Western Desert.

Eight Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night and later 26 Wellingtons bombed the harbour and shipping. 2 ships were hit in the latter attack, one by a 4,000 lb bomb.

5 naval aircraft made a successful attack on Castel Benito aerodrome.

6 Blenheims attacked shipping in Navarin Harbour at 1055 today, but owing to bad visibility only 2 were able to drop their bombs after diving; the remainder did not see the target.

The 4th Indian Division report that an enemy ship has landed supplies 5 miles east of Mersa Lucca.

East Indies.

In view of a reported threat that, if SURCOUF was captured on voyage to Jibuti, Vichy French would begin sinking British merchant ships without warning, C. in C. E.I. suggests they be informed that SURCOUF is being detained for examination but that if Jibuti surrenders she will at once be released to continue her voyage.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Hongkong harbour was closed to shipping from sunset today until sunrise 30/11.

America & West Indies.

A "Q" report was made by British WEST POINT at 0518 N today in 51.39 N., 41.21 W. Admty consider this was probably on sighting a vessel from a recently scattered convoy.

Further sailings of Vichy French ships from U.S.A. to French North Africa are at present suspended. Admiralty instructions regarding interception of French ships are in 2204A/29 which cancels the instructions given on 24/11

U-Boat Campaign.

Convoy O.S.12 escorted by 6 sloops, with WESTON as S.O. was attacked at 0212Z/29 in 41.12 N., 29.48 W. S.S. THORNLIEBANK was torpedoed and blown up. This was the first loss from U-boat attack reported for 17 days. TOTLAND who was escorting sighted and attacked a U-boat.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.11.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

PUCKERIDGE, WHEATLAND, for H.F.

A.M.1603/26. PUCKERIDGE, WHEATLAND detailed from Portsmouth Command. PUCKERIDGE is not fitted with Oerlikon guns. Reference C.A.F.O. 1378/41 para 2, request these be allocated immediately as a special case. It is intended to remove the mark VIII pom-pom in the eyes of the ship before sailing, as experience has shown that it is of little use under open sea conditions.
This will leave ship with no effective close range A.A. weapon forward unless Oerlikons are fitted. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1027A/29).

New Destroyers. Proposed allocations.

The following allocations of new construction destroyers have been decided. LOOKOUT and LOYAL will join 19th D.F. in Force H.
2. M. Class will join Home Fleet. They will form part of 17th D.F. until completion of MILNE in August 1942 when they will constitute the 11th D.F.
3. NORSEMAN will join 7th D.F. in Mediterranean Fleet.
4. NOBLE and NONPARIEL will join C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
5. Remainder of "O" Class will join 17th D.F. in Home Fleet.
6. "P" Class will constitute the 12th D.F. and will join Mediterranean Fleet.
7. All the above will work up independently for about one month probably at Scapa before joining their respective commands.
8. Any or all of these destroyers may be required for service in hot climates at short notice and should be prepared accordingly.
9. Destroyers allocated above to Home Fleet should be prepared for service in Arctic waters similarly to other destroyers now in Home Fleet but without prejudice to datesof completion. (1st S.L. 1933A/29).

Co-operation with Russia.

Alleged sinking of Enemy Cruiser on 27 /9.

Russians are perturbed at seeing the names of all four German light cruisers always cropping up in our disposition signals. They are still convinced they sank a cruiser believed to be KOLN Class off Oesel Island on 27/9 and they say they saw this ship sink. Two enemy destroyers are also claimed on the same day.
2. Can you throw any light on this?
(Adm. Miles. 100-D/29 to Admty).

U-boats.

Soviet aircraft to indicate to British warships U-boats sighted. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1647C/29)
See U-boat Campaign.

/1st....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

1st M/S Flotilla.

Admiral Commanding White Sea Forces desires BRAMBLE, SPEEDY, and SEAGULL to carry out A/S search between Gorodetsky and Ponoi between 0900 and 1500 to-morrow. S.B. land aeroplane will co-operate, using procedure in my 1647C/29.
2. On completion Admiral wishes S.O.1st M.S.F. to proceed to Molotovsk to discuss method of carrying out clearing sweep. Fuel and provisions can if necessary be provided for all three ships. Icebreaker will meet off Bar.
3. Molotovsk expected to remain clear of ice until 5/12. Request immediate decision on both proposals. If approved S.L. 1st M.S.F. report exact time of arrival off Bar.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1655C/29 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

Defence of U.K.

Clyde Boom.

Recent heavy gales have demonstrated that another BAR Class Vessel is urgently required for Boom maintenance. Therefore request that conversion of VAILLIANT may be given a high priority so that on completion she may relieve BARBARIAN and the latter then freed for maintenance work. (F.O. Greenock, 1045/29).

Falmouth A/A Defences.

Admiralty 0944A/28 requesting appreciation and action with regard to reinforcing A.A. Defences of Falmouth. Agree with you that one Hy. A.A. Battery should be despatched from I.A.Z. for this purpose. Request that immediate action is taken to implement this plan.
(H.Q.F.C., 1720/29 to A.A. Command).

Belfast A/A Defences.

Your 1037A/28. An Oiler will always have to be at Magilligan. It is only necessary to earmark one permanently and use it for mounting Bofors guns. As far as is known, FOSSBECK is not likely to move and could also be used for mounting guns. The Oiler with destroyers alongside it will always be the most important target at the anchorage and guns mounted here will be most effective.
Failing approval, suggest the MAUNSELL TOWERS might be used. An early decision is necessary as FOSSBECK is shortly refitting, and F.O.I.C. Glasgow has been informed by Admiralty that it is not desirable that S.S. FOSSBECK and PRESIDENT SERGEANT should mount guns as these vessels may be transferred to other waters.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1824A/29 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.11.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.551. E.T.A. Position D 0300G.M.T./1. (P.551, 0515Z/29).

DANEMAN is to R/V with P.551 as arranged by S.3 and escort to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1113A/29 and 1154A/29 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

C. in C. W.A. 1113A/29 and 1154A/29 (1) Request DANEMAN may be sailed as necessary to R/V with P.551 in position 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/1st and escort her to Holy Loch (11) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested arrange fighter co-operation for passage from Barra Head to Holy Loch, speed of advance 12 knots. (Capt. S.3., 1317A/29 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

(1) P.551 is to R/V with DANEMAN in position 270° Barra 10 miles at 0900A/1st and proceed in company to Holy Loch. (2) T.B.R. within 30 miles Barra Head from 0800A/ to 1600A on 1/12 have been arranged. (Capt. S.3., 2201A/29 to P.551).

EDINBURGH. Scapa arrival C.S.18 in EDINBURGH. (A.C.O.S., 0923/29).

SCOTT. 1. SCOTT will be required for operations under C. in C. H.F. from 19/12.
2. Request she be sailed to arrive Scapa on that date. (V.C.N.S., 1043A/29 to R.A.M.)

SIKH, ZULU. Intend to sail SIKH 0830A/30 to R/V with ZULU at Lough Foyle Buoy 1230A/30, thence to Gibraltar in accordance with your 1601A/28, S. of A., 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1237A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

TRIDENT, MINERVE. RIVER LOSSIE will meet you at No. 23 Buoy and escort MINERVE into Dundee. TRIDENT pass to LORD LLOYD. (Capt. S.9., 1241A/29 to TRIDENT, MINERVE).

BELMONT. My 2154A/24. Sail BELMONT at best speed when ready. Route to St. Johns N.F.
(C. in C. W.A., 1254A/29 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

BERKELEY. Fuel permitting proceed Portsmouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1650/29 to BERKELEY).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy F.N.64 CORMARSH (British, 2848 tons) sunk. ASPERITY (British Tanker 699 tons) sunk. M.G.B.89 and one E-boat damaged.

Am standing by torpedoed ship by 58 A buoy. (GUILLEMOT, 0549A/29 to VIVIEN).
My 0549.CORMARSH. Have picked up whole crew 3 slightly injured. Am attempting to tow clear of channel. Request tug may be sent. Slight hope of salvage. Position 58 A buoy. (GUILLEMOT 0627A/29).
Departure Tug SUPERMAN to assist ship in distress in vicinity of 57 C Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0758A/29).
Departure Tug SABINE at 0800 to assist CORMARSH. (F.O. Humber, 0800A/29).
CORMARSH has now sunk in 053° 15' 50" N., 001° 03' 45" E. (GUILLEMOT, 0820A/29).
Arrival M.L. 145 at 1110 with 4 survivors from ASPERITY. (F.O. Humber, 1115A/29).
Arrival GUILLEMOT at 1130 with survivors from CORMARSH. (F.O. Humber, 1144A/29).
Details of E-boat attack on F.N.64 not yet known. Attack took place at about 0445 between 57C and 58A buoys. Steamships ASPERITY and CORMARSH known to be sunk. Survivors landed at Humber. M.G.B's intercepted and heavily engaged E-boats about 60 miles E.N.E. from Yarmouth. (C. in C. Nore, 1151A/29).
My 0917. AFTERGLOW located straggling. Reports ASPERITY sunk in 053° 11' N., 001° 07' E., approximately. Sank in 2 minutes at 0438. 4 survivors picked up by AFTERGLOW were transferred to Motor Launch number not known. (WHADDON, 1155A/29).
Total crew 26 including 4 D.E.M.S. of CORMARSH landed Grimsby. Hit by two torpedoes from E-boat just N. of 58A buoy at 0530/29. Sank 0900 in 53° 15' 50" N., 01° 03' 45" E. (F.O. Humber, 1416/29)2 D.E.M.S. Second Engineer and Fireman ASPERITY landed Grimsby after being picked up by last ship of convoy F.N.64. Engineer reports ship torpedoed port side between tanks and engine room at 0430/29 and sank in five minutes. Nothing known of remaining ten members of crew. (F.O. Humber, 1600A/29).
My 1151A/29. Preliminary report of C/F activity on night 28/29.
Three units of 70' M.G.Bs. were detailed to take up outer interception patrols, one north of Brown Ridge, one on Brown Ridge, and one to S.W. of Brown Ridge at dusk. On E-boat activity being reported in vicinity of 57C Buoy at 0500/29, M.G.Bs. 86, 89 and 17 on the northern patrol were ordered to move 10 miles north to cover possible retirement of E-boats to Den Helder. M.G.B. 17 broke down, but M.G.Bs. 86 and 89 complied and made contact with one E-boat steering to eastward at 0615. Action developed at 400 yards range with M.G.B.89 astern and not in contact. M.G.B. 86 overhauled the E-boat which took avoiding action. 86b. Oerlikon jammed at this stage and E-boat was lost sight of.

/Two.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.11.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Convoy F.N.64 CORMARSH (British 2848 tons) sunk. ASPERITY (British Tanker 699 tons) sunk. M.G.B.89 and one E-boat damaged. Contd.

Two or three minutes later 86, now with 89 in close company, sighted an E-boat possibly not the same one on the starboard bow.
Action developed for some 20 minutes with 89 closing to 50 yards. and 86 engaging with available weapons, Oerlikon still being jammed.
During this phase 89 was hit some 30 to 40 times and damaged, Oerlikon Gunlayer killed, and four men wounded including 1st Lieut., the E-boat whose fire was accurate escaping.
M.G.B.89 reports only overhauling E-boat at about 3 knots when proceeding at his utmost speed of about 48 knots. Both C.Os. report hitting enemy many times.
(2) Inner patrols near Leman Bank and Hearty Knoll saw nothing.
(3) Weather conditions precluded air co-operation
(4) M.T.Bs. 30 and 34 on patrol off Hook of Holland report no activity there between 2030/28 and 0430/29. (C. in C. Nore, 1432A/29).

Trials. (WESTCOTT).

WESTCOTT's 0930/28 and C. in C. W.A. 1744A/28.
Amend my 1250/26 as follows. (C.A/S.E.E., 1031A/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Patrols.

Weather permitting a unit of M.T.Bs. from 1st Flotilla is to patrol between Ostende and Flushing tonight. If conditions are favourable Flushing Roads should be visited. Surface vessels met Eastward of 2° 40' E., may be attacked without challenge. (C. in C. Nore, 1100A/29 to BEEHIVE).
Patrol tonight (1) 3 M.G.Bs. 52° 53' N., 3° 8' E. (2) 2 M.Ls. Q.E. (3). (3) Motor Launches Q.E. (6.A). (C. in C. Nore, 1607A/29).

Combined Exercise (PRINCE CHARLES, ETTRICK, KEREN).

My 0012/29. Programme. Details. (V.A. C.T.C., 1129/29 to C.Q.11).

Search of Northern Coasts. (BERWICK).

Your 1058N/28. Intend to leave Kola Inlet 1600C/30 with ONSLOW and OFFA approaching Tana Fjord from the Northward about 2200/1 and searching coast to North Cape until about 0300, thence to Northward until clear of bomber range, thence to Scapa through 73° N., 26° E., 73° N., 15° E., 69° N., 3° W., 62° 30' N., 5° W. Speed of advance 14 knots. C. in C. Northern Fleet and S.B.N.O. North Russia concur.
STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE will return to Iceland with Q.P.4. (BERWICK, 1709C/29).

/Following....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search of Northern Coasts. (BERWICK). Contd.

Following for information addressed N.O.I.C. Weymouth from N.O.I.C. Portland. Established N. Patrol tonight commencing Eastern. End. T.O.O. 1215/29.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1752/29 to BERKELEY).

Firing off Gorodetsky.

2 Unknown ships reported firing off Gorodetsky 1000 today. Was this you please, if so what were you firing at? S.B.N.O. Murmansk pass to BEDOUIN. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 23250/28 to BEDOUIN).

British Air Activity.

A/C Trial off Skerry.

Cancel my 1641/28. Weather unsuitable.
(C. in C. Nore, 0845A/29 to WALLACE).

HAWKINS.

My 1856/28. 1 Hudson will repeat operation tomorrow. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1911/29 to HAWKINS).

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over Scapa.

At 1304 today one Ju. 88 passed over Scapa Flow and was fired on. Height 15,000 feet and plane must have seen into fleet anchorage.
(A.C.O.S. 1356A/29).
Your 1356A/29. Request report whether
(A) R.D.F. gave warning of the approach of this A/C (B) A/C was engaged by fighters.
(C) To what extent A/C was engaged by A/A guns.
(1st S.L., 2320A/29 to A.C.O.S.

Mining.

Sweep of Faeroes Passage.

Weather permitting S.L. 4th M/S F. intends operating on 30/11 between 1200 and 1600 and subsequent days between 1000 and 1600. Request air escort. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 0121A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

Explosion off Cromer.

Very heavy explosion in 053° 09' 30" N., 001° 08' 30" E. Am investigating.
(WHADDON, 0447A/29).

MENESTHEUS, LANCASTER.

Arrived MENESTHEUS and LANCASTER.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0843A/29).

/Bristol....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Bristol Channel. Owing to further minelaying it will not be possible to revert to normal working in the Bristol Channel for at least 7 days. Until further notice Swansea and all ports to the East of Swansea will be open from 1100 until 2200 daily.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0952A/29.)

Thames Estuary. One S.A. Mine detonated at 1041/28. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1126/29.)

Appledore. My 2225/28. Port will be open from 1500/30.
(N.O.I.C. Appledore 1725/29.)

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats. One E-Boat position 170° Outer Dowsing Light Vessel 20. (GUILLEMOT 0425/29.)
4 E-Boats operating in vicinity 57 C Buoy.
(SOUTHDOWN 0455/29.)
The following has been read. One E-Boat position 064 Y.A.R. 30. (Yarmouth W/T 0735/29.)

Unknown Ships. Plot of unidentified ships 255° Lizard Head 10 at 1644, and 204° Lizard Head 10 at 1705, both proceeding Westerly. Have you sighted anything.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1730/29 to BERKELEY.)

TIRPITZ, EMDEN, LUTZOW. P.R.U. Kiel 1330/29. TIRPITZ and EMDEN present. LUTZOW present but undocked.
(D.D.I.C. 2019A/29.)

Navigational.

Straits of Dover. East Varne and No.8 Light Buoys missing from Station. Request Q.Z.H.
(V.A. Dover 1516A/29) (Hydrographer 1844A/29.)

Casualties and Defects.

KINGSTON ANDALUSITE (Collision 27/11) KINGSTON ANDALUSITE was in collision with M/V position 244° Portland 7½ miles. Anticipate temporary repairs will be completed at Portland p.m.1st. Request refitting yard be allocated observing she will require docking to effect permanent repairs.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1135/29.)

/LEDAAL ...

MOST SECRET.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

LEDAAL (Broke down 27/11)	ST. OLAVES towing LEDAAL in thick fog off No.6 buoy, speed four knots. Please warn shipping. (? ATJEH 0110A/29 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Arrival ST. OLAVES with S.S. LEDAAL in tow. (N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1415A/29.)
CAPE COMORIN.	CAPE COMORIN's 1010/29. CAPE COMORIN is to be detached to arrive Plymouth 0930/30 for defects to be taken in hand for refit. (C. in C. Plymouth 1506/29.)
RUNA GROTTA.	Icelandic trawler RUNA from Seydisfjord, and Faroe Islands trawler GROTTA from North Icelandic Coast, both considerably overdue at Liverpool. Request any information. (N.C.S.O. Fleetwood 1648/29 to N.C.S.O. Stornoway.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.4.	Convoy P.Q. four arrived 2100C/28. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0930C/29.)
Q.P.4.	S.B.N.O. Archangel 0950C/28. STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE not ready to sail before 3/12. It was necessary to water these ships at sea from Destroyer on passage out. Unless return is urgently required propose SAN AMBROSIO and both trawlers return with Q.P.4. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1046C/29.)
S.C.53 P.L.M.13	Delayed five days by re-routeing and adverse weather. 37 ships in company at M.O.M.P. EMPIRE DORADO sank as a result of collision on 20/11. MERIDIAN and CRUSADER not accounted for. All other ships reported. P.L.M.13 arrived Reykjavik for fuel. (D.T.D. 1707A/29 to Opnav.)
P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys.	Reference C.B.04024 para.83. The following sections only should be signalled to the Admiralty and repeated to above addressees and Senior Officer of escort. 1, 2, 3, 8, 8A, 9 and 13A. This should be included in one signal. (D.T.D. 1710A/29 to N.C.S.O. Archangel.)

/O.N.J.40 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.J.40. COLUMBIA and SKEENA sailed 1500 with Oiler CLODORA and 1 Merchant Ship. GALT at 1700. Remainder delayed by weather. (A.C.I.C. 1716/29.)

S.C.54. Warmest congratulations on again bringing in safely your Convoy S.C.54. (C. in C. W.A. 1821/29 to Vice-Admiral G. Macworthe.)

LEAMINGTON. LEAMINATON (Sic) reports starboard propellor damaged and only slow speed available on starboard engine. HECLA making examination. (A.C.I.C. 1905N/29.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

WELLINGTON.	WELLINGTON E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900 G.M.T./30, requires 150 tons fuel. Request arrangements may be made. (F.O.C.N.A., 0320A/29, to N.A. Lisbon N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
COMMANDANT DUBOC.	My 1702A/28. Departure COMMANDANT DUBOC, no "Q" messages held. Constant wireless watch on 500 kc/s with call sign ZYW. (F.O.C.N.A. 1042/28 ? 29 intended).
PONTET CANET. CAUDEBEC.	Arrival Setubal 25th PONTET CANET. Departure 28th CAUDEBEC (Navicert) Casablanca 30th. (Lisbon 1159/29 to M. of W.T.)
S/M Torpedoes.	C. in C. Med. 1040/B/16. Request you will also take advantage of destroyer opportunities. It is not intended to embark additional torpedoes in destroyers for Atlantic passage, but shipment of further reserves of submarine torpedoes to Gibraltar are in progress. (D.O.D. (F) 1219A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.)
CORINTHIAN. CIRCASSIA. MARSDALE.	CORINTHIAN left vicinity 33.00 37.00 at 1200/29 to R/V with S.L. 93 (11) CIRCASSIA on patrol in the vicinity of 34.00 39.00. Situation 2001A/29 MARSDALE on patrol F.X.2. (F.O.C.N.A. 1350A/28 (?29)).
NESTOR GURKHA ammunition.	Request you will arrange for NESTOR to embark 5000 rounds Oerlikon additional to outfit for transfer to Gibraltar reserves. 2. GURKHA should adjust 4 inch Mark XVI S.A.P. outfit to 150 rounds per gun landing practice and if necessary H.E.T.F. Request report quantities after adjustment. (D.G.D. 1546A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth, repeated F.O.C.N.A. etc.)
SERAFIN TOPIC.	Your 1621A/28 (1631A intended understood SERAFIN TOPIC will load some crude rubber at Oran) not to Capt. (S) 8. Request detailed description of SERAFIN TOPIC. (F.O.C.N.A. 1608A/29 to Admty.) Your 1608A/29. Details not known for certain but probably:- Three Island Tramp, straight stem, counter stern, one funnel, two masts, speed about 8 knots. (D.D.I.C. 1924A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.) A.M. 1631/28 and F.O.C.N.A. 1810/28. In view of great importance of sinking SERAFIN TOPIC this objective for 0.24 should take preference over patrol ordered in F.O.C.N.A. 1810/28. (V.C.N.S. 1813A/29 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.)

/Your.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SERAFIN TOPIC - Contd.

Your 1813A/29. Cancel my 1810A/28. Intend sailing 0.24 for close patrol off Oran as neither route nor destination of SERAFIN TOPIC is known. 0.24 leave Gibraltar 1700A/30 diving by day. Request early (? reply to) my 1608A/29. Consider chance selection correct target slight, especially if in convoy. N.O.I.C. Malta pass to Capt. S.10. C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. S.1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2134A/29 to Admty. repeated, C. in C. Med. etc.)

A/S patrol for CLYDE.

My 1710A/28, sailed. (F.O.C.N.A. 2004A/29 to C. in C. Med.)

South Atlantic.

"Q" Report WEST POINT.

Following has been read: Received on 500 K/c's From Unknown (Station unread) QQQQ Armed Merchant Ship Raider 1° 9' N., 41° 21' W. WEST POINT, suspicious. (Freetown, Ascension Radio 0518N/29) W.D. Note:- Another version (see America and West Indies) gives position 51.39 N., 41.21 W. Freetown - Ascension's 0518N/29. This message was originated by Br. WEST POINT in 51° 39' N. 41° 21' W. probably on sighting vessel from recently scattered convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1128A/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

A/C Patrols.

Admty. 2329/23/11. I intend using two Walrus from N.F.S. WYNBERG to augment Anson Patrols. Para W, delete W.2. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0957B/29 to C. in C. S.A.)

? WARTENFELS.

Report graded A.3. states German ship has sailed from Diego Suarez destination unknown. No date is given and report presumably refers to WARTENFELS. Ship was previously incorrectly reported forming part of "Bellringer" Convoy. My 0832/26/10 refers. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1112B/29 to Admty. etc.)

/ECHODALE.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

ECHODALE.
DORSETSHIRE.

Your 1143Z/27. ECHODALE on board on sailing 7676 tons fuel, 1195 tons diesel. Aviation spirit 87 Octane 145919 gallons, 100 Octane 102519 gallons. Aero shell lubricating oil 10859 gallons. Fitted for stirrup and trough methods. 430 feet 3½ inch 430 feet 5 inch hoses on board. DORSETSHIRE fitted R.D.F. type 286 P. One Walrus A/C. (C. in C. S.A., 1351N/29 to R.A.S.A.D.)

KAJAK.
(Esthonian)

KAJAK sailed from Buenos Aires P.M./29 destination said to be Montevideo. Have no knowledge of her probable movements. She has been in Buenos Aires since August 1940. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2227Z/29 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

PERSEUS.
TRUSTY.

My 2331B/27. Establish patrol as follows as soon as possible after 1800B/30: TRUSTY and PERSEUS North and South respectively of 038° 11' within 48 miles 038° 11', 020° 21' and West of 020° 35' and 020° 42' respectively. PERSEUS pass through 035° 35', 021° 10' and 037° 20' 020° 26'. (Capt. S.1, 0023B/29 to PERSEUS, TRUSTY). Cancelled, see 1145B/29.

P.31.
UPHOLDER.

P.31 return to area R. UPHOLDER Cape Colonne forthwith. (Capt. S.1, 0131B/29 to P.31, UPHOLDER).

PERSEUS.
THUNDERBOLT.
TRUSTY.
TRIUMPH.

Operation B.S. (? Establish) patrol line by 0400B/30 4 - 035° 50' 019° 35' - 060° - 15 - 330° - 15. S/Ms are to take up positions as follows:-
(a) (?035°) 50' 019° 35' PERSEUS.
(b) THUNDERBOLT.
(c) TRUSTY.
(d) TRIUMPH.
(Capt. S.1, 0133B/29 to S/M's named).

P.34.

UPHOLDER has been ordered to Colonne. Proceed to her position in area F to cover S.E. approach to Messina. (Capt. S.10, 0243B/29 to P.34).

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya.	Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E. 0330/29, 1840/29, 2336/29) See Lion Copy.
VIRGILIO (Italian)	Reported on 29/11 she would arrive at Naples on afternoon of 30/11. (D.S. 817).
ROMA. AUGUSTUS. VULCANIA. (Italian)	C.2 report states were at Genoa on 16/11. (D.S. 817).
THRASHER. P.31. UPHOLDER.	Establish patrol line 3 - 039° 13' 017° 29' - 050°-18 - 140 - 30. UPHOLDER in position H 039° 13' 017° 29, P.31 J, THRASHER K. Heavy unit of enemy fleet expected to proceed S shortly. (Capt. S.10, 0530B/29 to S/M's named).
Force K.	Return to Malta before dark today. (V.A. Malta, 0941B/29 to Force K.) Your force was probably sighted by enemy A/C at 1055 G.M.T. today 29/11. (R.A. Alexandria, 1612B/29 to S.O. Force K.) Possible enemy S/M 25 miles 150° from Delimara. (Malta, 1620B/29 to S.O. Force K.) 29/11 arrivals, AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, LANCE, AJAX, NEPTUNE, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY. (V.A. Malta, 2240B/29 to Admty.)
HASTY. NIZAM.	Join Capt. D.2. leaving Alexandria now for A/S hunt. (R.A.D. Med., 1026B/29 to HASTY, NIZAM).
Force K. Force B.	C. in C. Mediterranean. Repeated Admiralty. Intend to sail Force K and Force B under C.S.7 at 0500B/30 to arrive in approx. 033° 40' N. 019° 20' E. by dusk, object destruction of Convoy. A.S.V. WELLINGTON will assist in search. (V.A. Malta, 1034B/29 to C. in C. Med.)
Operation B.S.	Bring into force condition A. (Capt. S.1., 1035B/29 to S/Ms. on patrol).

/A/S.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/S Hunt. 2 D.F.	Proceed when ready with HERO. Hunt U-boat reported by PROTEUS in 031° 53' 029° 04' at 2120/28. HASTY and NIZAM ordered to join you in searched channel. Safety routes for PROTEUS and TRITON are being passed by hand message to Capt. (D) 2nd D.F. only. 1 Yugoslav Dornier co-operating. (F.O. (D) Med. 1116B/29 to Capt. D.2.)
PERSEUS. TRUSTY.	Cancel my 0023B/29. (Capt. S.1, 1145B/29 to PERSEUS, TRUSTY.)
Enemy destroyers.	P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers are 33.57 N., 22.10 E. 054° 20 knots. (Med. A/C, 1150/29 to 201 Group). My 1150 - P.C. and S. of Italian Destroyers are 34.05 N., 22.22 E., 280° 20 knots. (Med. A/C, 1300B/29 to 201 Group).
Air A/S Search.	A.189 29/11. One Swordfish will be going out A/S search Alexandria Tobruk shipping route between 1930 and midnight. (201 Group, 1209B/29 to Med. Fleet at Sea.)
PARAMATTA.	My 1825B/27. Regret no officer survivors and only 20 ratings, details being reported by R.A.(D) Med. (C. in C. Med., 1223B/29 to Admty. repeated A.C.N.B.)
Benghazi bombed.	Night 28/29 Nov. 26 Wellingtons bombed harbour and shipping Benghazi. 2 ships hit with 500 lb. and 4000 lb bombs. respectively. Latter overshot Cathedral Mole. Small fires started on quays. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1234/29).
Turkey and Russian S/M's.	Interview Adm. Kelly and Adm. Fahri Engin, new M. of Communications. Refers to sinking of Turkish ships by Russian S/M's in Black Sea, and development of Iskanderun. (N.A. Angora, 1244B/29 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

/BRECONSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

BRECONSHIRE, Malta fuel.

Most important to get BRECONSHIRE here soon so that replenishment of Malta fuel can be started. Intend she should be sailed for Alexandria taking advantage of bad weather with westerly winds at first opportunity after 7/12 when moon is getting favourable. If Force "B" or "K" are available at the time escort should be provided, if not she should be sailed independently. Route must depend on circumstances but aim should be to cross 20° 00' about dusk. Force from Alexandria would be sent to meet her and relieve "B" or "K" as escort. You would have to judge the moment. Request your remarks to enable skeleton operation (order?) to be framed. (C. in C. Med., 1251B/29 to V.A. Malta).

A/C attack on D.2.

Attacked by 2 torpedo Bombers 31° 10' N. 28° 45' E. at 1635. 1 torpedo dropped, no hits. (D.2, 1645B/29 to Ships on Admiral's Wave).

Enemy Warships hit by P.31.

About 3 cruisers and an unknown number of destroyers P.C. and S. ? (039° 032°) 20', 017° 33', 165° 20 knots 3 hit. (P.31 1720B/29 to N.O.I.C. Malta, etc.) Position about 70 miles S.S.E. of Taranto.)
Well done indeed. You must remain on patrol unless torpedoes are expended. You will be relieved as soon as possible. (Capt. S.10, 2235B/29 to P.31).

Castel Benito and Benghazi bombed.

Night 28/29. 5 naval aircraft successful attack Castel Benito Aerodrome bombs dropped among dispersed aircraft, blowing up one bomber probably damaging others and causing large fires, some near hangars. 11 Wellingtons (IV?) out to Benghazi three returned mechanical trouble remainder successful attack 1855 to 2006 hours. Numerous hits Mole Italia and Cathedral Mole and quay side causing large fires visible great distance, 29th. 6 Blenheims attacked shipping Navarin Harbour. 1055 hours. Only 2 aircraft dropped bombs after diving remainder did not see target due to bad visibility, no hits claimed. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1732/29).

HANS SCHMIDT. (German).

Arrived loaded steel plates. Leaves Genoa tonight repeat Intelligence Centre. (Alicante, T.H.I. 2100/29 to Admty.)

/Operation....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Operation "Aggression".

Amend S.O. Force I 1848/21. Convoy A.T.1 (fast). CHAKDINA, KIRKLAND with HEYTHROP, AVON VALE, THORGRIM sailing 2100/30 through Shoulder buoy then 031° 04' N. 029° 07' E.
F. 0600/1.
A. 1250.
B. 2050.
R. 0400/2.
Z. ?2250.
S. Tobruk boom 1000/2. S. of A. 8½ knots.
Code name "Screw". Fighter protection required by day 1st and from dawn 2nd. C. in C. Med. 1551/29 refers. (R.A. Alexandria, 2149B/29 to S.B.N.O. Tobruk, S.O. Force I, amended 0931B/30)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DAUNTLESS. — Regretted that in view of present situation in Far East you must recall DAUNTLESS to Colombo.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0104A/29 to C. in C.E.I.)
Comment: See China 0843/30. DAUNTLESS sailed from Colombo 0435/27 for Seychelles.

Return to Colombo now so as to arrive a.m./1.
(C. in C.E.I., 0350Z/29, to DAUNTLESS.)

B.P.28. — My 1230/1. B.P.28 now consists of SANTHIA, CITY OF LONDON, from Karachi. Sailing 14/12 and 17/12 respectively; and EGRA from Bombay, sailing 14/12.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0928Z/29 to C. in C.E.I.)

Force G. — PRINCE OF WALES, ELECTRA and EXPRESS left Colombo 0915Z/29.
(C. in C.E.I., 1044Z/29, to Admty., C. in C. China F.O. Malaya.)

SURCOUF. (intercepted 25/11.) — French S.S. SURCOUF on voyage from Diego Suarez to Jibuti with cargo of foodstuffs was intercepted by CORNWALL on 25/11 and has been sent to Aden under armed guard for examination. She arrived Aden 29/11. Information received through master of SURCOUF that Senior French N.O. Diego Suarez stated that Vichy French would start sinking British Merchant Ships without warning if SURCOUF was captured by British on voyage to Jibuti. It is for consideration whether Vichy Govt., should be informed that SURCOUF is being detained for examination but that if Jibuti surrenders she will at once be released to continue her voyage.
(C. in C.E.I., 1430Z/29, to H.Q., M.E.)

W.S.12X.
W.S.12Z. — P.S.T.O. Egypt's 0951/26 to D. of S.T.
As MAURETANIA will now arrive Durban about 9/12 it might be possible to reduce congestion there before arrival of W.S.12Z and to accelerate movement of personnel by sailing her with NIEUW AMSTERDAM from Durban for Suez about 13/12. This would also enable these ships to clear from Suez before full moon period. Request your remarks on possibility of providing escort in addition to W.S.12X and W.S.12Z. Suggest ILE DE FRANCE if refit is completed should sail with W.S.12Z.
(D.O.D.(F) 1431A/29 to C. in C. E.I.)
Reply 1316/30.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Force G.
Publicity.

Your 0933Z/25 and your 0525Z/26, there should be no publicity until Adm. Phillips arrives at Singapore. Announcement can then be made from Singapore that Rear-Adm. Sir Tom Phillips has been appointed C.-in-C. Eastern Fleet, with rank of Admiral, in command of H.M. Ships and Naval establishments on China Station. Vice-Adm. Sir Geoffrey Layton, on transfer of his command to Adm. Sir Tom Phillips, will return to U.K. to take up another appointment. On arrival of PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE and Destroyers, but not before, it can be stated that they are part of the Eastern Fleet which has been formed. If questioned about remainder of Eastern Fleet, reply should be that for security reasons, information of composition and disposition of Eastern Fleet cannot be given.
(1st. S.L., 0109A/29, to C. in C. China.)

FUSIJAMA.
(Italian.)

Cancel my 0803/26.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0346Z/29, to Admty., etc.)

BENALDER.

Have you any news of BENALDER due Singapore 20/11 from Port Okha?
(D.T.D. 1708A/29, to S.O.I., Singapore.)
Reply: 0731/1/12.

Tankers,
Australia.

My 1847B/1/8. Petroleum Board now state that 25 tankers each way will require to join monthly M.S. and S.M. Convoys in order to maintain present programme of supplies to Australia and New Zealand. About 6 of these will require to go to and return from Balik Papan and Tarakan, the remainder using Palembang, Berandan and Singapore. Request you will contact Woollerton of Asiatic Petroleum and obtain confirmation of above and any necessary details regarding inter-island traffic.
(D.T.D. 1712A/29 to C. in C. China.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

"Q" Report WEST POINT.

Following has been read. QQQQ 51° - 39' N., 41° - 21' W. WEST POINT, suspicious, de GRL. (Unknown Station via Liverpool, T.O.R.0618/29.) See also South Atlantic.

CLARKIA.

Your 1704R/28. Request CLARKIA be sailed for Trinidad on completion by most direct route via Yucatan Channel.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 0942Q/29, to B.A.R.M.)

LIVERPOOL.

My 1304Q/27. LIVERPOOL E.T.A., position (c) is 1000Z on 4/12.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 1052Q/29, to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy Diversion Code.

Ref. your 1820Z/28, concur. Request sufficient advance notice effective date to inform our forces.
(Opnav, 1355/29, to Admty.) Reply: 1040/30.

BARFLEUR
JEANNE D'ARC.
(French.)

Reliable report that French C.L.BARFLEUR leaves Fort de France 29/11 for Los Saintes and Guadeloupe for ten days. French C.L.JEANNE D'ARC will also leave for Guadeloupe today.
(Opnav, 1410Z/29, to Admty.)

Canadians for Hong Kong.

Would it be possible to provide accommodation in any H.M. Ship for Canadian Army Draft of 1 Officer and 50 ranks, or any part, to Hong Kong in near future?
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1629Z/29, to B.A.D., rep. Admty.)

DUC D'AUMALE

Following received CINCINNATI at 1530 G.C.T. Contacted French Steamer DUC D'AUMALE. Estimated course 150°speed 14. Position 11-37 N., 52-03 W.
(Opnav, 1715/29, to Admty., Cinclant.)

/DEVONSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

DEVONSHIRE. Can arrangements be made for DEVONSHIRE to be taken in hand in U.S.A. at early date for repairs to 6 pinion and 4 turbine bearings on port inner shaft which are wiped, and any urgent defects which could complete concurrently? Time required estimated 2 to 3 weeks. Date of arrival of ship will be communicated by C. in C.S.A.
(D. of D., 1724A/29 to B.A.R.M.)

LIVERPOOL. BBermuda departure LIVERPOOL in accordance with my 13040/27.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 17530/29, to Admty.)

ROXBURGH. B.A.R.M. Washington 1702R/27 and 1530R/28. ROXBURGH can be taken in hand forthwith for refit in U.S.A. at Charleston Navy Yard.
2. Request you will sail her as soon as possible with an O.N. Convoy to Iceland (C).
3. After fuelling at Iceland(C) A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her for St. Johns N.F. direct.
4. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa is requested to issue instructions for onward route from St. Johns N.F
(D.O.D.(H) 1826A/29 to C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, B.A.R.M.)

Vichy Ships, Policy. My 0015/24 and 1239/25. Owing to omission of a negative in Washington message as received in London, policy of U.S. was understood to be that set out in my 0015/24.
2. Correct position is as follows:-
(a) Ships trading between West Indies and American Continent or in inter-island trade should not be interfered with.
(b) Any Vichy ship already notified as sailing on an approved voyage is not to be interfered with.
(c) Further sailings to Africa are at present suspended. Should any ship be permitted to sail from America or the West Indies to Africa, the voyage will be notified as formerly.
(d) Subject to the above all unescorted Vichy ships should, if met, be sent into a British port. Vessels sailing under (b) or (c) above are equally to be sent into British port if not proceeding to their approved destination.
3. My 0015/24 is accordingly cancelled.
(Head of M. 2204A/29 to C. in C.A.W.I. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Destroyers. Your 0527/28/11. We are most grateful for the way in which Australian Govt.,have met our wishes in this matter. These destroyers will perform most valuable service in defence of Imperial interests in the Far East.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1413A/29 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

Soviet A/C reports.

Following arrangements made for Soviet Union aircraft in White Sea to indicate to British warships U/Bs. sighted.
(2) Aircraft will broadcast 4 times signal in following form; K K K K 6731, 4201, 1125C U/B sighted in position 067° 31' North 042° 01'east at 1125C. Signal will be repeated every half hour up to maximum of 3 hours.
(3) Soviet Union aircraft will visually indicate position of U/B by circling and firing 2 white Very's lights.
(4) Local British A/S forces should keep wireless guard when instructed to do so by S.B.N.O. Archangel.
(5) Request A.G.M. be issued.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1647C/29).

Ships Attacked.

O.S.12

O.S.12, at 0212Z/29 one ship torpedoed and blown up in 041° 12' N. 029° 48' W.
(WESTON 0355Z/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
Believed to have been THORNLIEBANK, 5569 tons. on passage from Barrow to Freetown. Blown up about 80 miles N.E. of Flores. Feared no survivors. (D.S. 817).

Submarines Reported.

26/11

Your 1302Q/28. Following received from Commandant Caribbean Coastal Frontier: Bomber reported submerged S/M near Martinique 26/11. Navy patrol of that area 27th and 28th developed nothing. Consider report doubtful reliability. Whales frequently seen in that area.
(B.A.D. 0945R/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Estimated approx. position of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1426 A/29).

Mediterranean

A/S Hunt by 2 D.F.(See Mediterranean).

Submarines Attacked.

By TCTLAND WESTON.

Sighted U/B about 0330/29 and attacked in 41.10 N. 29.50 W. approx. Oil patch seen. No other visible result. (D.S. 817, 30/11 - no signal in W.D.).

By LADY MADELEINE

Your 2130Z/28. On next occasion of breaking silence report time at which LADY MADELEINE sighted periscope and position.
(C.in C. W.A. 1128A/29 to BEAGLE).

/By.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.11.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. -Contd.

By M.L.121 — Have dropped one Pattern on contact investigating further.
(M.L. 121, 2118A/29 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

Coastal Command aircraft today attacked shipping off the Dutch coast, with some success.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. SKERRIES reports that at 1220 B.S.T. today 5 miles E. of Coningmore Rock, she opened fire on an unidentified aircraft of seaplane type which attempted to fly over her. The aircraft flew away towards Eire. The master considers that this plane was in the vicinity spotting during the last attack on his ship, which has been attacked three times.

Mining.

4th M.S. today recommenced sweeping operations in the Faeroes passage.

S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN in F.S.65 was sunk off the north coast of Norfolk early this morning. It is thought probable that she struck a mine laid by E-boats or other surface vessels (see 29/11). Several mines were detonated today in the neighbourhood.

MOST SECRET.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Blenheims on shipping search at 0755 today attacked a 4,000 ton and a 2000 ton merchant ship southbound in 36° 58' N. 19° 23' E. escorted by a destroyer. The larger ship was left on fire, down by the stern and listing, with the crew abandoning ship. The smaller vessel was damaged.

Libya and Western Desert.

The enemy have been observed to run cargo from Navarin to Derna in destroyers by night. Capt. D (14) (JERVIS), JAGUAR, KIPLING and JACKAL sailed from Alexandria to establish a patrol tonight about 30 miles north of Derna to intercept supply traffic. F.O. 15th C.S. (NAIAD) with EURYALUS, HASTY and HERO sailed to support the destroyers.
15 Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour and shipping last night.

GLENROY has arrived off Alexandria and is being lightened in order to enter the Great Pass.

U-Boat Campaign.

A Swordfish from Gibraltar attacked a U-boat at 1940 today 12 miles west of Cape Spartel. Near miss D.C's caused the U-boat to heel over and disappear, leaving a large oil patch.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Request 2 Destroyers for CLEOPATRA.

CLEOPATRA will be carrying out power trials from Rosyth on 3rd and 5th December to northward returning to Rosyth on completion of each days trial.
It is considered necessary to provide her with A/A surface escort during these trials.
There are no destroyers of Rosyth escort force available nor even if there were would they be capable of keeping up with her. It is therefore requested that 2 Home Fleet destroyers may be allocated for this duty.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1959/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

Ocean Trawlers *

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian claims.

Your 100-D/29. Photographic R/C of Gdynia on 29/9 showed NURNBERG, KOLN and EMDEN present. Photographic R/C of Kiel on 5/10 showed LEIPZIG present. All ships have since been located again by photographic R/C. Is it possible Russians have mistaken Finnish ILMARINEN for one of casualties claimed? We have not yet located all 18 destroyers which Germany had completed, and it is possible Russian claim of 2 destroyers may be correct.
(D.N.I. 1450A/30 to Ad. Miles.)

Party for Russia.

Your 2305A/26. KENT is allocated.
(C. in C. H.F. 2351A/30.)

Movements.

ARROW.

My position 047° 19' N. 015° 00' W.
(ARROW 0600/30.)

ORUC REIS (Turkish)

Sailed TURBULENT and ORUC REIS in company escorted by Z 5, E.T.A. Clyde 0830A/1.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 0950A/30.)

ESPERANCE BAY.

Proceed passing Switha 0300 tomorrow to R/V off May Island at 1130/1 with ESPERANCE BAY.
2. ESPERANCE BAY escorted by WHITSHED is on passage from Thames Estuary to Clyde speed of advance 15 knots. When met relieve WHITSHED and provide escort to Clyde. On completion return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1005A/30 to ECLIPSE.)

P.551
P.511

My 1317A/29. P.511 will also be at R/V at 0915A/1. Request DANEMAN be instructed to meet both P.551 and P.511 and escort them to Holy Loch. (Capt. S.3. 1015A/30.)

*Ocean Trawlers.

Organisation. (C. in C. W.A. 2205A/30.)
See Lion and Tiger Copies.

/(i) ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.551
P.511 contd. (i) R/V with DANEMAN in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0915A/1 for onward passage to Holy Loch.
(ii) P.551 will R/V with DANEMAN in same position at 0900A/1 but will be in vicinity from 0400A/1.
(iii) T.B.R. within 30 miles of Barra Head from 0800A to 1600A/1 have been arranged.
(Capt. S.3. 1109A/30 to P.511.)
Sailed DANEMAN in accordance with your 1317A/29 and your 1015A/30.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1632A/30 to Capt. S.3.)

RUBIS. Leave patrol after dark 2nd for Dundee diving by day routed as follows to gap A arriving Eastern edge 0200A/6.
(Capt. S.9. 1107A/30 to RUBIS.)

KING GEORGE V.
VICTORIOUS. Scapa arrivals C. in C. H.F. in KING GEORGE V. with VICTORIOUS, SOMALI, ECHO, ESCAPADE, TARTAR, MATABELE, ASHANTI and ESKIMO.
(A.C.O.S. 1201A/30.)

A.F.D.14. Scapa arrival 1105 Floating Dock XIV towed by EMPIRE LARCH. (A.C.O.S. 1212A/30.)

9th M/S Flotilla. My 1257/29. Amend to read 9th M/S will leave St. Helens 2100/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1243A/30.)

BELMONT. Sailed BELMONT in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1254A/29. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1345/30.)

HAWKINS. Arrival 1316A/30.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1357A/30.)

S/M off Dartmouth. One submarine will be exercising off Dartmouth on 1st, 2nd and 3rd of December as follows.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1518/30.)

EREBUS.
ROBERTS. Please pass to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, E.T.A. ROBERTS, EREBUS, and escort December 10th.
(ROBERTS 1673A/30.)
Intend to proceed EREBUS at 0815A/1. Request escorting force may be sailed so as to proceed out of harbour not less than 15 cables ahead of ROBERTS who will be operating S.A. gear.
(ROBERTS 1642A/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

/BELMONT ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

BELMONT. BELMONT should proceed to St. Johns, N.F. in lieu of Halifax.
2. C.C.N.F. is requested to sail BELMONT to provide escort to U.K. for AGAMEMNON and CALIFORNIA as directed by C.O.A.C. Halifax.
(D.O.D. H. 1805A/30.)

RAMILLIES. RAMILLIES screened by ESCAPADE and WHEATLAND will sail for Greenock at 0925A/1.
(C. in C. H.F. 1805A/30.)

R.A.F. Floating Dock. Intend to sail tug EMPIRE LARCH for Sullom Voe Shetlands p.m. tomorrow for towage of R.A.F. Floating Dock to Leith. Escort PRESTON NORTH END, SCALBY WYKE.
N.O.I.C. Lerwick is requested to sail Floating Dock when ready. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to provide 2 A/S trawlers to take over escort at 32 buoy. (A.C.O.S. 1928A/30.)

MAYFLOWER NANAIMO. MAYFLOWER and NANAIMO are to return to Iceland forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A. 2332A/30 to FOXHOUND.)

Operations.

Patrols. Departure M.G.B.(S) 20, 21, 19, for patrol "O".
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0534A/30.)
CUMBERLAND sailed for patrol "Black" 0230.
(Iceland - Faroes Patrol)
(A.C.I.C. 0941N/30.)
CAMPBELL with 1 M.G.B. will carry out patrol between 61 C. buoy and position 070° 15 miles from Sheringham buoy tonight. She will proceed by Q.Z.S.288 to 56 buoy, thence South Leman, thence North of 60 buoy.
LOWESTOFT report E.T.A. 57 A buoy, WALLACE report E.T.A. Sheringham buoy. If times reported are likely to be more than 30 minutes out an amended report is to be made.
(C. in C. Nore 1030A/30.)
Weather permitting carry out following Patrol each Sunday.
(1) One M.G.B. (S) of 7th Flotilla Q.E.(12) with CAMPBELL R/V 54C buoy at 1600.
(2) One Unit of M.G.Bs (L) Q.E. 6 A.
(C. in C. Nore 1043A/30 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)
My 1016A reference (?your) 1043A. Cancel para. 1. Weather unsuitable.
(N.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1308A/30.)
Cancel my 1030A.
(C. in C. Nore 1657A/30.)

/Patrols ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols. (Contd.)

Patrols tonight.
(1) Three M.G.B. Brown Ridge.
(2) Two M.Ls return Aldeburgh from Eastwards at Daylight.
(3) Two M.G.B.Q E Six A.
(C. in C. Nore 1659A/30.)
5 M.Ls leaving Yarmouth now for patrol Q.E.9.
(C. in C. Nore 2103A/30.)

Flashes in Cardigan Bay.

Master of M/V EMPIRE SPINNEY reports when in 52° 24' N. 4° 49' W. at 2100/28 a series of dull red flashes were observed bearing W.S.W. 10 miles approx. Flashes were in a group of 5 followed by a group of 2. No detonations were heard.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1109A/30.)

Search of Northern Coasts.

C. in C. Home Fleet's 1058N/28 and H.M.S. BERWICK's 1709C/29, and Admiral Miles 1519D/28. Has Admiral Miles been informed?
(A.C.N.S. H. 1215A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
BERWICK 1709C/29. Sailing of BERWICK and destroyers and operation postponed 24 hours owing to weather. Admiralty pass to all addressees except H.M.S. BERWICK and Capt. (D) 17.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1909C/30 to Adty, repeated SHEFFIELD, etc.)
Your 1215A/30. Admiral Miles has been informed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1931C/30.)

White Sea A/S Sweep.

Shelter or proceed at your discretion. North East Gale here. Sleet visibility ½ mile.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1236C/30 to S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla.)
Full northerly gale. Ships hove to. Request Gorodetski light all night.
(S.O. 1st M/S F. 1352C/30 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
Your 1352C/30 and 1001C/30. These lights will not now be shown until further request from you.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1750C/30 to S.O. 1st M/S F.)

RUBIS Patrol.

Patrol in zone C.4 North of 061° N. within 20 miles of the coast. Object as in F.S.B.
(F.O.S. 1456A/30 to RUBIS.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C over Scapa on 29/11.

Your 2320A/29. A. Yes. B. 6 fighters failed to engage. C. 40 rounds from 7 gun site on Flotta and Hoy.
(A.C.O.S. 0943A/30.)

Faroes.

M.S.4 reports air escort attacked Junkers 88 of area as Flotilla was leaving harbour today forenoon. Enemy jettisoned one bomb in sea. Result of attack unknown as enemy appeared to make good his escape unnoticed in cloud.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1917A/30.)

Mining.

EMPIRE NEWCOMEN (British, 2840 Tons) sunk.

S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN sunk by torpedo vicinity 58 A. buoy. Have 12 survivors on board, 11 in ST. MELLONS, 1 in LAB, 9 missing. Proceeding with LAB to Humber.
(SHEARWATER 0500A/30.)
Arrival SHEARWATER at 1025 with survivors of NEWCOMEN. (F.O. Humber 1035A/30.)
Thirteen including two D.E.M.S., No Officers, from S.S. EMPIRE NEWCOMEN landed Grimsby. Seaman states ship was torpedoed at 0345/30 just North of 58 A buoy and sank few minutes later.
(F.O. Humber 1306A/30.)
From available evidence it is very probable that EMPIRE NEWCOMEN was mined. It also now seems possible that S.S. CORMARSH was sunk by mine and not by E-Boats, since 12 ground mines were swept in vicinity of 58A Buoy today Sunday.
2. It is considered that these mines were probably laid by E-Boats or other surface vessels. (C. in C. Nore 2128A/30.)

Bideford.

Your 0748A/30. Herewith repetition of N.O.I.C. Appledore's 2225/28 begins. Owing to suspected minelaying off Bideford Fairway Buoy (Ports ?) inside Bideford Bar are closed. 2225/28. Ends.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0808/30.)

Bristol Channel.

Exploded red magnetic 1047A/30 in position 005°, 4.5 cables Flatholm Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1240A/30.)

Humber.

Five red mines have been detonated today in vicinity of 58 A buoy.
(F.O. Humber 1542A/30.)
My 1542A/30. Twelve mines have been detonated today in vicinity of 58 A buoy.
(F.O. Humber 1731A/30.)
12 mines exploded today as reported in my 1731A/30.
(F.O. Humber 2224A/30.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessel. — Unidentified plot 090° Start Point 7½ miles at 0145, course N. Investigate.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0202/30 to M.L. 155.)

E-Boats. — 1 unknown E-Boat bearing 173° 18 miles from Outer Dowsing L.V.
(VERDUN 0339/30.)
E-Boat attack likely tonight Sunday.
(C. in C. Nore 1626A/30.)

Navigational.

H.8 Buoy. — H.8 Buoy Light reported extinguished.
(F.O. Humber 1513A/30) (Hydrog.1630A/30.)

Casualties and Defects.

AVON. — (A/P Trawler) Your 0910. AVON missing from convoy at daylight muster.
(VIMIERA 1030A/30)

T.L.C. Sections. — Sections of 5 T.L.Cs have recently been lost over board in O.S. convoys. (Description) Ships are to keep a good look out for these sections and report position if seen on next occasion of breaking W/T silence.
(C. in C. W.A. 1222A/30 to LANDGUARD, etc.)

BLACKFLY.
CAPE MARIATO.
PAYNTER. — Cancel my 1206A/29. Ships delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530A/30.)

P.L.M.17. — S.S. P.L.M.17 should be sailed for Greenock at the earliest opportunity for repairs to armament.
(D.T.D. 2312A/30 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.S.43 (ROXBOROUGH) — Admiralty 1826A/29. Sail ROXBOROUGH with O.N.S.43.
(C. in C. W.A. 1041A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
A.M. 1826A/29. ROXBOROUGH completion date 11/12. It is understood approx. 48 hours will be required for fuelling etc., before ship will be ready to sail.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1229A/30.)

/Kirkwall ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Kirkwall. Examination vessel has been withdrawn from North Eastern entrance to Wide Firth, Kirkwall and this entrance is now being used by local craft only. All ships routed to Kirkwall should be directed to enter by Shapinsay Sound. (A.C.O.S. 1126A/30 to Adty.)

S.C.54. Met as arranged. Average speed 6.27 knots. Eight stragglers during gale 17 to 19/11. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1232A/30 to Opnav.)

F.S.61. You are to sail for Sheerness with Convoy F.S.61 which leaves Methil at 1830/30, acting as additional escort. Proceed ahead of convoy during daylight Monday to fix wrecks off Humber in accordance with hydrographic instructions 13 and 14. Rejoin convoy on completion. (C. in C. Rosyth 1311/30 to FRANKLIN.)

P.W.74. SCOTT. My 1757/25. SCOTT will sail as additional escort for P.W.74. Expected time of departure Yarmouth Roads 1245/1. E.T.A. Milford Haven approximately 1300/3. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1453/30 to R.A.M.)

Q.P.4. Your 1046/29. Approved for SAN AMBROSIO and A/S trawlers STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE to return with Q.P.4. (D.O.D. H. 1809A/30 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

W.S.14 D. MALANCHA. S.S. MALANCHA now loading military stores at Clyde is part of convoy W.S.14 D, but her speed of 13½ knots precludes her inclusion in the convoy.
2. Request you will sail MALANCHA escorted by SNOWFLAKE and JASMINE to Freetown as soon as she is loaded.
(D.O.D. H. 1810A/30.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fuelling, Ponta Delgada. — Ref. fuelling at Ponta Delgada. Refrain from obtaining larger quantities of oil fuel than are reasonably necessary. Prudent margin should however be allowed for reaching destination. (F.O.C.N.A., 0102A/30 to WELLINGTON, CYCLAMEN)

CYCLAMEN. — E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0900A/1. Requires 130 tons fuel. Request arrangements. (F.O.C.N.A., 0106A/30 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).

LONDONDERRY. — E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 1700N/1. 110 tons oil fuel required. (LONDONDERRY, 0129Z/30 to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)
Request arrangements may be made. (F.O.C.N.A., 0800Z/30 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada).
Re. fuelling at Ponta Delgada (repeats 0102A/30) (F.O.C.N.A., 0802A/30 to LONDONDERRY).

WELLINGTON. — Arrived Ponta Delgada 0815 G.M.T./30. Left 1815 G.M.T./30. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0909/30 t 1635/30 to S.O.(I) Gib).

CLAN MCINNES. — Your 1321N/28. Local escort will be provided Where will ships break off? (F.O.C.N.A., 0920A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

SEVERN. — Your 1945N/26. Request you sail SEVERN at earliest convenience. (F.O.C.N.A., 1008A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

FARADAY escort. — Your 1231N/28. Yes. (F.O.C.N.A., 1105A/30 to C. in C. S.A.)

O.24. — Cancel Capt. (S) 8's 1606A/29 (N.T. in W.R.) Netherlands S/M O.24 sails 1700/30 routed through 035° 35' N., 002° 30' W., to establish dive patrol off Oran West of 001° 00' W., S.O.A. 12 knots. Dive by day on 1st. (F.O.C.N.A., 1308A/30 to CLYDE).
My 2234A/29 (2134/29 intended) Departure O.24 Q.B.58, Q.B.B.217. (F.O.C.N.A., 1716A/30 to Admty).

JONQUIL. — F.O.C.N.A. 1834/A/26. JONQUIL can be taken in hand for refit and reconstruction by Humber Shipwright Company Hull, mid-December. (D.O.D. (H) 1823A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/French....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

French Ships.

0930, unidentified French armed Trawler, French ship DE LA SALLE, laden P.C.S. 37° 21' N., 10° 18' W., 140° 10 knots.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1829A/30 to Admty).

S/M.

One S/M proceeded Spartel Cape 12 at 2130A/30.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2149A/30 to N.A. Stn).

South Atlantic.

KAJAK (Esthonian).

My 2227Z/29 KAJAK left Buenos Aires 1700 G.M.T. /29 approx. Exact time not known.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 0201Z/30 to Admty).
My 2227/29 KAJAK arrived Montevideo in Ballast, consigned to Moore McCormack Lines to await orders. Reported she will bunker here and load cargo for U.S.A. Would this voyage be approved?
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1441Z/30 to Admty).

O.S. Convoy Routes.

Your 2343N/14/11. Commencing with O.S.14 it is proposed to give all ships from U.K. sailing in O.S. Convoys and through-routed to Cape 3 alternative routes in a secret envelope "Z" "Not to be opened until ordered by Commodore". Details of proposals are being forwarded by Escorts of O.S.14 and copies of all such routes will be forwarded by N.C.S.O's of assembly ports by 2 ships bound for Freetown from each port. You will thus be in possession of routes before Cape ships are due to disperse, enabling you to instruct Commodore what routes are to be used. Routes cover a wide area roughly (1) from St. Helena 420 miles Westward. (2) from St. Helena 400 miles Eastward. (3) between 420 miles and 840 miles east of St. Helena. Positions on Routes not used will be available as Reference Positions for subsequent diversions.
(D.T.D., 1439A/30 to C. in C. S.A.) Concur.
(C. in C. S.A., 1204N/1 to Admty).

FARADAY.

Your 1208A/28 (Sailing M.L.244 with FARADAY) Concur. (C. in C. S.A., 1730N/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/S.L.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

S.L. 94. Departure 30/11 convoy S.L.94 VANSITTART, VELOX, LAVENDER, STARWORT, STANLEY. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1829N/30 to Admty etc).

SEVERN. Your 1008A/30. Intend to sail SEVERN 0800N/2 routed through (A) 11.35 N., 18.10 W. (B) 18.50 N., 19.20 W (C) 24.25 N., 17.30 W. (D) 29° N., 12.40 W. (E) 33.25 N., 10° W., (F) 290° Cape Spartel 5 miles. S. of A. 12 knots passing through position C. at 0730N/6 and shifting to North Atlantic W/T Organisation at 1200Z/5. (C. in C. S.A., 1955N/30 to F.O.C.N.A)

Shipping Restrictions, S. America. Your 1040Z/30 (N.T. in W.D.) There is no restriction on ships bound South America and Trinidad other than that given in A.M.0001/1/5 Sec. IV para 8 sub-paras. 2 and 3, as amended by Amendment No. 42. (D.T.D., 2331A/30 to N.C.S.O. Capetown,) For addition see also Admty 2055A/1.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Destroyer. One small enemy destroyer, P.C. and S. 035° 20' 023° 12' 045° 12 knots. Weather. (TALISMAN, 0925B/30 to Capt. S.1).

Operation "Aggression" My 2149/29. For "Codeword "Screw"" read "Code name "Screw"". (R.A. Alexandria, 0931B/30 to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, S.O. Force I). My 2149/29. Amend all times to 5 hours early. "Screw" now sails 1600/30. (? 1051B/30 to C.S.7 HEYTHROP).

Enemy Warships. 3 cruisers 3 destroyers 036° 40' 018° 20' and one cruiser, one destroyer 036° 50' 018° 23' all 170° 15 knots at 0849B/30. (V.A. Malta, 0934B/30 to S/Ms. on Patrol 0939B/30 to Force B, Force K, rep. C. in C. Med).

Enemy Destroyers. 2 Destroyers 36° 56' N., 18° 55' E., 140° 15. (A/C Q6PN 0947/30 to Call Sign R.7.M) (V.A. Malta 1234B/30 to S/Ms on Patrol)

/JUPITER....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

JUPITER defects. Your 2042A/26. Worst riveting discovered was in gland space where many rivets were loose. Most Fuel oil tanks were also leaking. Detailed inspection was not made as ship did not dock as expected. Suggest repair port be directed to forward detailed report. (R.A.(D) Med., 0952B/30 to Admty, rep. C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy M/Vs. and 1 destroyer, 36° 58' N., 19° 23' E., 200° 6 knots. (A/C Q6PJ 0955/30 to Fort York). (V.A. Malta, 1155B/30 to S/Ms. on Patrol)

REGENT, URSULA. REGENT and URSULA leave Malta P.M./30 proceeding from 038° 00' 011° 44' REGENT to pass 038° 15' 009° 00' about 1900 and URSULA to pass (?038°) 05' 009° 00' about 2300/2 thence to Gibraltar as ordered by you. Unless other-wise ordered they will proceed submerged during daylight hours throughout the whole of passage and are expected to make good REGENT 145 and URSULA 120 miles per day. Both have been informed of Capt. (S) 8's 1132A/26 (?informing) re W/T routine and of movement of CLYDE and O.24. (V.A. Malta,1051B/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

HEYTHROP, AVON VALE. Return to enter harbour by 1500. (R.A. Alexandria, 1111B/30 to HEYTHROP, AVON VALE)

U/B. Possibility of Italian U-boat in vicinity of Gavdo. (V.A. Malta, 1117B/30 to PORPOISE).

M/V. Oneunescorted 6,000 merchant ship in 036° 02' 019° 23', course and speed 180°, 10 knots. (THUNDERBOLT, 1148B/30 to V.A. Malta) (V.A. Malta, 1455B/30 to Force B., Force K).

U/Bs. Enemy S/Ms. suspected in rectangle whose diagonal joins 036° 00' N., 016° 48' E., to 034° 00' N., 015° 20' E. A/S aircraft is searching area today. (V.A. Malta, 1206B/30 to C.S.7 amended 2130B/30)

Air Operations. Night 28/29 Nov. F.A.A. Albacores despatched to attack supply dumps and M.T. inside Bardia Perimeter with M.T. concentration near Gasr El Arid as alternative. Results awaited. Attack by Malta Wellingtons on Benghazi Harbour reported in Malta signal 1.261 29/11. Day 29/11. R/C Blenheim attack 2 destroyers steering N.E. between Crete and Cyrenaica 3 250 lb bombs falling within 20 yards of one. No other shipping movements see. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1214/30)

/Navarin...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Navarin-Derna Convoy. Plans to intercept.

Enemy have been observed to run cargo from Navarin to Derna in destroyers by night arriving Derna dawn and probably sailing at dusk. Sail when ready and proceed as follows - (a) Capt. (D) 14 JAGUAR, KIPLING, JACKAL to establish patrol about 30 miles North of Derna tonight 30th/1st to intercept destroyers. If no interception made, close to Derna at dawn 1st and then withdraw N.E. to (?approx) latitude 033° 30' N. If no further orders received, return to Alexandria, carry out A/S sweep off Ras Azzaz on passage.
(b) F.O. 15th C.S. EURYALUS, HASTY, HERO sail when ready to follow up Capt. (D) 14 until night 30th. Then establish patrol in vicinity 033° 00' North 023° 50' East until 0600 1st withdraw then Eastward to Alexandria unless otherwise ordered. Object support of Capt. (D) 14 if required. (c) Italian U-boats suspected off Derna and North of 033° 20' North, W. of 025° 00' East.
(d) A.S.V. SUNDERLAND will report number on route Navarin-Derna during the night 30/1. W/T frequency 6540 kc/s. (c) A.O.C. 201 Naval Co-operation Group is requested to provide fighter protection for Capt. (D) 14 from 1500/30 until darkness. Request fighters be available at call of C.S.15 or Capt. (D) 14, A.M./1st. Codewords C.S.15 "Faith" Capt. (D) 14 "Banko" (f) Own air activity may be (expected?) over Derna. (g) Forces B and K are at sea in south central Mediterranean. 4 Italian cruisers and destroyer(s) have been sighted 036° 40' N., 018° 20' E., course 170° at 0849/30. (C. in C. Med., 1218B/30 to C.S.15, D.14, rep. Med. Fleet. Amended 1615B/30).
Ref. Para D. of C. in C. Med's 1218B/30 A.S.V. Sunderland not operating.
(201 Group, 2240B/30 to C.S.7 rep. D.14).

D.14.

Capt. (D) 14 intended to pass through 031° 30' N., 028° 15' E., at 1600/30 course 290° Speed 27 knots. (C. in C. Med., 1234B/30 to C.S. 15 D.14).

/A/C....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

A/C attack on convoy.

Blenheim attacked 2 M/Vs. and 1 destroyer in 036° 58' N., 019° 23' E., at 0954 today. 1 M/V left burning and listing heavily. (V.A. Malta, 1328B/30 to C. in C. Med., C.S.7). Also referred to in H.Q. Malta 1641/30.

Enemy Warships.

Following has been read Hal Far. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy cruisers, 5 destroyers, are (?35° 35' N., 18° 37' E). 162° 15 knots. (A/C DR6R, 1410/30).

2 M/Vs.

P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 M/Vs. 090 Marittimo 4 Mls. 240° 8. (Med A/C., 1515/30 to Hal Far).

Benghazi bombed.

Night 29/30. 10 Wellingtons mark 2 out to attack shipping Benghazi. 1 returned engine trouble crash landed, crew uninjured, remainder successful attacked 1800 to 1924 hours. Bombs dropped area 400 yards West Fondugh Nalace. Hits base Cathedral Mole causing fire, 2 fires town, other bombs town and target area, lorries machine gunned, 1 damaged. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1640/30).

Enemy Units, 30/11.

Patrol 1053 hours, 3 cruisers 5 D/Rs shadowed until 1210 hours when D/Rs opened fire, position then 140° Cape Spartivento 185 miles. 2 Naval Aircraft A/S Patrol 40 to 90 miles 085° to 150° from Delimara sighted nothing.

M/V Hit. Destroyer machine-gunned.

Blenheims, shipping search Ionian sea attacked 0755 hours 1 M/V 4,000 tons 1 M/V 2,000 tons 1 D/R 258° Stamphali Isle 96 miles, southbound 8 knots. 5 attacked dropping 10 500 lb G.P. bombs 11 second delay 3 hits. Larger M/V left on fire, down by stern, listing to port, large clouds smoke, crew abandoning ship. Photos confirm believed near misses, but may be hits, smaller M/V which was damaged. D/R machine gunned. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1641/30).

TRUANT.

TRUANT leaves Alexandria Sanctuary at 1700B/30 and proceeds through 35° 00' 27° 00' and 35° 38' 26° 22' thence direct area T bounds 36° 50' N., and 25° 00' E., the N. Coast Crete and line drawn 160° and 45° from Antikithera light. (Capt. S.1., 1655B/30 to C. in C. Med).

DELPHINIUM.

Request you will sail DELPHINIUM immediately on arrival Alexandria to Beyrout. +GKGY (Cannot be identified in War Reg) is urgently required and no other escort is available. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1748C/30 to R.A. Alexandria).

/S/Ms....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

S/Ms. Eastern Med., S/M movements summary 58. (A)

Submarine	Est. Noon position 1/12.	Est. Noon position 2/12.
PORPOISE.	Due Area Y, S.W. Antikithera a.m./1st.	
PROTEUS.	Due area S, N.E. Antikithera early p.m./1st.	
TRUANT	035° 04', 026° 56'.	Area T, S.E. Antikithera.

(B) PERSEUS, THUNDERBOLT, TRUSTY, TRIUMPH are on patrol line 4, 035° 57' 019° 02' 060° 15 033° 15. (Capt. S.1., 1829/30 to Med., Fleet etc).

R/C. Afternoon R/C blank, visibility 5 cables. (2) A.S.V. should be in area at 2000B. (V.A. Malta, 1829B/30 to C.S.7).

Fleet Movements. 30/11 arrival OLYMPUS departure AJAX, NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY, KINGSTON, KIMBERLEY, URSULA, REGENT. (V.A. Malta, 1850B/30 to Admty).

Benghazi Derna bombed. Night 29/30. 23 Wellingtons operated. 15 attacked Benghazi Harbour and Shipping, bombs bursting on Base of Mole without visible effect (G.O.?) hits on ships. 5 bombed Derna landing ground, bombs bursting on lighted flarepath and among Aircraft taking off. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1952/30).

Bardia. Now clear from Liaison officer just returned that enemy still hold Bardia and are using it for supply, and that German Afrika Corps on its eastward run refuelled from Bardia dumps. Elements 5 N.Z. Brigade unable to mask Bardia effectively, but 8th Army taking further steps to clear up this situation. (C. in C. M.E., 2055/30 to W.O.)

Enemy Battleship. Probable battleship in 36° 30' N., 19° 25' E. course S., speed 15 knots, at 1500B/30. (V.A. Malta, 2119B/30 to S/Ms on Patrol Rep. C.S.7).

/Situation....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report 171.

C.S.7 in AJAX with NEPTUNE, KIMBERLEY, and KINGSTON arrived Malta and are at sea again with Force K. Enemy cruisers and destroyers reported at sea today 30th in Southern Ionian making towards Benghazi.
2. C.S.15 returned Alexandria P.M./28 and sailed p.m./30 with NAIAD, EURYALUS, and 2 destroyers to support D.14, who with 4 destroyers is operating north of Derna tonight 30/11 to intercept supply traffic.
3. Western Desert. New Zealand Division having joined TOBFORT requires supply from Tobruk. Convoy A.T.1. of 3 supply ships and 3 A lighters has sailed from Alexandria.
4. GLENROY has arrived off Alexandria and is being lightened in order to enter Freat Pass.
5. Levant. Corvettes continue extensive escort operations.
6. Red Sea. My 1807/27 para 7, fire damage to GEORGIC will not delay sailing in tow.
7. Submarines. P.31 reports 3 hits on enemy force thought to consist of 3 cruisers and destroyers at 1650/29. 70 miles south of Taranto.
8. Aircraft. Blenheims from Malta attacked 2 M/Vs in position 36.58 N., 19.23 E., at 0954/30. One M.V. left burning abandoned. Albacores are doing excellent work in Western Desert providing illumination for R.A.F. bombers and in bombing of enemy supplies and M.T.
(C. in C. Med., 2130B/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

? EMERALD. Sailed 0515Z/30 to R/V with DERWENTDALE outer end Durban searched channel at 0600Z and escort her to Aden, E. T.A. Aden A.M./13/12. Routed in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 1328Z/21. (Not received in Admiralty). (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0552Z/30 to N.O.I.C.'s Aden, Kilindini, etc.)

DAUNTLESS. Cancel my 1338/25. (Programme for DAUNTLESS) (C. in C. E.I., 0726Z/30).

SURCOUF interception. British Cruiser brought in Vichy Freighter SURCOUF from Madagascar bound to Djibouti with food supplies rum and wine. Master, Jean Romano, Lieut. De Vaisseau de Reserve. Supercargo, Alain Hubert Enseigne De Vaisseau, Yves Rivoallan, Petty Officer. Crew Indo Chinese. Political views will be signalled later.
(Free French N.L.O. Aden, 0830/30 to Admty. pass to F.N.F.L.)

W.S.12X.
W.S.12Z. Your 1431/29.
(i) Following arrangements made:
(A) W.S.12X. Escort to be provided by AUSTRALIA now at Capetown. My 0742/30 refers.
(B) Semi-Monsters. Escort to be provided by CORNWALL now at Aden with orders to sail A.M./1/12 for Durban arriving there A.M./11/12.
(ii) W.S.12Z.
(A) If situation permits proposal is for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to continue escort to vicinity Mombasa where EMERALD or COLOMBO could be made available for onward escort to Aden.
(B) If ROYAL SOVEREIGN cannot be spared either HECTOR (A.M.C.) earmarked for escort of CEDARDALE to Mauritius or EMERALD escorting S.S. DERWENTDALE will be withdrawn. (C. in C. E.I., 1316Z/30 to Admty. rep. N.O.I.C. Simonstown F.O.C.R.S., etc.).

WARTENFELS. A.3. report states German ship, presumably WARTENFELS, has left Diego Suarez, no date given. WARTENFELS arrived Diego Suarez in March 1941 from Massawa. (D.S. 817, 30/11).

/Conference.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Conference with C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

(1) It was my original intention to send my Chief of Staff to represent me at the Singapore conference. (2) PRINCE OF WALES visit to Colombo has, however, provided an excellent opportunity for exchange of views as well as for a general discussion on future policy. (3) I am now satisfied that Adm. Phillips and his staff are sufficiently informed on matters affecting my squadron to allow of my keeping my C.O.S. here during this critical period. (C. in C. E.I., 1700Z/30 to Admty, rep. C. in C. China).

China.

Indo-China.

Discussion with member of Menfem Staff re trade relations between Indo-China and neighbouring British territories, and future of the present agreement. (C. in C. China, 0131Z/30 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Japanese Shipping.

TATUTA MARU to depart Yokahama 2/12 for Los Angeles and Balboa has orders to return to Japan not later than 16/1/1942. Master told that under no circumstances must he be later. Comment. Initial reports gave sailing date about 25/11. Delay in any Japanese shipping movements is unusual. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0543Z/30 to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS.

Your 0104A/29. (see East Indies 29/11) I hope even in present situation you can find a way to avoid recalling DAUNTLESS to China station. Her officers and men left here expecting an early return home. No doubt whatever of their loyalty, but effect of her return on morale in China cruisers would be bad; less so if DAUNTLESS were detained for service on some other station. Trust that by utilising her for necessary convoy escort it may be possible for her to proceed to U.K. She should be ready to leave again as soon as recommissioned. (C. in C. China 0843Z/30 to Admty.)

/Far.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Far East Situation. Following telegram has been despatched to C. in C. Far East and Governors Straits Settlements, Hong Kong and Fiji.
"Evidence is accumulating that situation as regards Japan is deteriorating. Circumstances do not at present warrant issue of general warning telegram, but measures to be taken in event of institution of precautionary stages and for outbreak of war should be reviewed to ensure that necessary steps can be taken promptly and efficiently should further telegram be sent. It is possible that development of situation may not permit issue of general warning or "war inevitable" telegram. Accordingly it is desired that you should consider whether any measures contemplated to be taken on receipt of either of these telegrams should be wholly or partially taken now and telegraph your recommendations.at once. (W.O. 2350/30, to C. in C. M.E., and to inform M. of State).

America and West Indies.

ILLUSTRIOUS. Kingston arrival. (Capt. I/C Jamaica, 0725R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Falklands, defences. Your 1959R/28. Coast defences are as follows (Details. (D. of L.D. 1033A/30, to B.A.D.)

Convoy diversion code. Your 1355/29, propose 15/12. (D.T.D., 1040Z/30 to Opnav) Your 1040Z/30. Affirmative (Opnav, 1411/1).

DUC D'AUMALE (French). Departure for Port Au Prince. (Caripito, Ven., 1130/30 to M.W.T.)

TULIP. INDOMITABLE. Your 1032Q/25. TULIP due for boiler cleaning and machinery adjustments very desirable to effect here. Intend following programme:- Leave, INDOMITABLE 6/12 Kingston 6 - 10/12; Trinidad 13 - 14/12; Sierra Leone 24 - 26/12; Simonstown 6/1.
Route to conform to those of Merchant Shipping except after Sierra Leone when direct route intended to avoid additional 900 miles.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1435R/30 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/THALATTA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

THALATTA. — THALATTA (Norg.) due Balboa 26/11 from Thursday Island not arrived. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1515R/30 to Admty. etc.)

COAST MERCHANT — U.S. ship COAST MERCHANT due Balboa 26/11 from Honolulu not arrived. Have you any information? (S.O.I. Jamaica 1517R/30 to D.N.I. Ottawa).

S/M SURCOUF. — Your 2141Q/A/2/11 and your 1711A/21/11. (A) Intend SURCOUF to leave Bermuda 6/12 and arrive Halifax 9/12. (B) Propose SURCOUF leave Halifax 16/12 and proceed Capetown via Freetown instead of via Trinidad. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1642Q/30 to Admty.) Para. B. approved. (D.O.D. (F) 1748A/2).

H.X. 162. — My 1345/28. Substitute Taskunit 4.1.2. for 4.1.1. and WILKES for GLEAVES. (Opnav, 1836/30 to Admty.)

GARLAND defects. — In company PASTEUR. My P.C. and S. at 1800 G.M.T. 045° 26' 051° 59' 252° 16 knots. Ship straining and leaking, Asdic out of action by heavy weather. (GARLAND, 1904Z/30 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

TERUKAWA MARU. — Japanese ship TERUKAWA MARU painted battleship grey. (S.O.I. Jamaica, 2249R/31 (?30) to Admty. etc.).

Australia.

SYDNEY, raider action. — When you have been able to collect from prisoners all available information regarding action between SYDNEY and raider, grateful if you would let me know what happened so that we can deduce any lessons for the future.
(1st S.L. 1115A/30 to A.C.N.B)

/Deepest.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia-Contd.

SYDNEY, raider action - Contd.

Deepest sympathy in heavy loss of personnel which has occurred to the R.A.N. in the loss of SYDNEY and PARAMATTA. (1st S.L., 1116A/30 to A.C.N.B).
Sea and air R/C has failed to locate any survivors of SYDNEY, but a R.A.N. lifebuoy and 2 Carley floats were picked up on 29/11, 160' N.W. of Carnarvon, W.A. Ascertained from survivors of raider, now known to have been STEIERMARK, 9400 tons, that the action took place at 4 p.m. and lasted until 6.30 p.m., 19/11 some 175' S.W. of Carnarvon. Both ships were set on fire during the action. The raider blew up about midnight. SYDNEY was heavily on fire when last seen. Further search has been abandoned. (D.O.R. 30/11)

MANOORA for Singapore.

Departure Port Darwin 0020Z/30. MANOORA for Singapore via Ratio. First Naval Member and staff embarked. E.T.A. 1200Z/5. (A.C.N.B. 1212Z/30 to A.I.G. 115).

CAP DES PALMES.

Your 0837Z/28. Following for F.N.F.L. Noumea from Adm. Comd. F.N.F.L. (Begins) Surprised that you have, without previously referring to me, routed CAP DES PALMES to Papeete when she should have proceeded to Singapore. Kindly make necessary arrangements for this ship to proceed to Singapore as soon as possible. T.O.O. 1824A/29. (Ends).(A.C.N.S. (F) 1621A/30 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.11.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

There are several U-boats between you and Gibraltar.
(D.D.I.C. 0957A/30, to EXMOOR, HURWORTH.)

1230. Am over enemy S/M in 46.55 N., 7.25W., sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 090° speed 2 knots.
(A/C V., 7 R.B. 1230/30, to 19 Group.)

Vicinity of O.S.12. There are indications that enemy aircraft may be Homing Submarines on to you. S.O. of Escort inform Commodore.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/30, to Escort O.S.12.)
Your 1242A/30. It is not considered that signals intercepted implied the presence of an aircraft.
(D.D.I.C. 1603A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
D/F bearings indicate that there may be several U-boats in vicinity of convoy O.S.12.
(D.D.I.C., 1300A/30 to Escorts O.S.12.
U.B. reported convoy O.S.12 at 1234/30 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1429A/30 to Escort O.S.12 rep. F.O.C.N.A. etc.)
Two U-boats have made sighting report of O.S.12 at 1450Z/30 and 1532Z/30.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1650A/30 to Escort O.S.12.)
D/F Bearings at 1609 G.M.T. indicate convoy O.S.12 is still being shadowed. Dusk alteration should be to starboard.
(D.D.I.C. 1802A/30 to Escort O.S.12.)

R/V with Supply Ship. Position of U-boats located by SENNEN suggests R/V with supply ship 0728.2434.
(LONDONDERRY, 1300N/30, to F.O.C.N.A.)
LONDONDERRY's 1300N/30. Have you received any report from SENNEN? If so please pass to Admty.
(D.D.I.C. 1801A/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1801A/30. Nothing received.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1958A/30, to Admty.)

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1445A/30, 1446A/30.)

Ref. Admty. Message A.F. 37° 26' N., 28° 44' W.
(Adm., Gibraltar, 1640 G.M.T./30 to G.B.M.S. Area 1.)
2,enemy submarines sighted in 037° 26' N., 028° 44' W., at 1639Z/30.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2159A/30 to N.A. Stn.)

/1510.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.11.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1510. Russians report U-boat 066° 23' N., 040° 38' E., at 1510.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1725C/30, to S.O., 1 M.S.Flot.)
Ref. Admty. Message AF 35° 42' N., 06° 09' W.
(Adm., Gibraltar, 2030 G.M.T./30 to G.B.M.S. Area I.)

Mediterranean.

For U/B's reported in Mediterranean, see under FOREIGN STATIONS, Mediterranean.

Submarines Attacked.

U/B sunk by 0.21. My 1708A/28. For U.30 read U.95.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1152A/30, to Admty.)

By LONDONDERRY. Enemy S/M in sight 180° 6.5 miles. Forced to dive by gunfire, my A/S out of action, my position 037° 26' N., 028° 44' W.
(LONDONDERRY, 1632Z/30, to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Escort O.S.12.)
My 1632. 2nd enemy S/M in sight 260° (? but) also forced to dive by gunfire.
(LONDONDERRY, 1639Z/30, to Admty., C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A., Escort O.S.12.)
Position 37.24 N., 28.52 W.,68' S. of Fayal.
(D.S.818.)

By A/C. At 2213/30, A/C P/407 attacked U/B with bombs in 53.45 N., 6.33 E., 10' N.W. of Borkum, Frisian Islands. No visible result.
(D.S.818.) (No signal in W.D.)

By S/M P.36. At 1540/26, approx., 47.15 N., 3.15 W., unsuccessful attack on outward bound U/B.
(D.S., 818, no signal in W.D.)

By A/C. At 1230/30. A/C B/502 attacked with D/C's, 46.55 N., 7.16 W., 130' S.W. Ushant. No visible result. Co. of U/B 270°.
(D.S.818, no signal in W.D.)

By A/C. At 2125/30. A/C Y/202 attacked with D/C's 35.42 N., 6.09W., 14' W.S.W., of Cape Spartel.
Oil seen after attack.
Co. of U/B 060°. (D.S.818.)
Oil one mile long, consider S/M sunk.
(A/C Y of No. 202 Squadron, 2300/30 to Gibraltar.) Further details, see 1/12.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

An ultimatum has been delivered to Finland that unless the Finns cease military operations by 3/12 H.M. Govt. will declare a state of war with Finland. However, the date has already been postponed to 5/12 and may be postponed again. Instructions were issued today regarding the treatment of Finnish ships in the event of war.

A fire occurred on the surface of the water at Rosyth this afternoon, apparently due to fuel oil, but little or no damage was caused to any of H.M. ships or the dockyard.

Yarmouth was closed on account of fog from 0905A to 1315A today.

At 2300 today 3 M.T.Bs on patrol near Kwinte Bank Buoy had a brief engagement with 6 E-boats. No casualties and little damage are reported.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Hamburg, Emden and Ostend. Aircraft which were unable to reach Hamburg attacked several ports in N.W. Germany.

Enemy Air Operations.

Nolso lighthouse was considerably damaged by air attack at 1320 today. An hour earlier a small merchant ship was slightly damaged in the Faeroes.

/Fishing ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - contd.

Fishing trawler ST. LEONARD was attacked at 1320 today 20 to 25 miles N. ½ W from Rona's Voe, and was abandoned.

ROSS (minesweeper) was attacked at 1730 and 1737 a mile N.E. of Aberdeen and returned to Aberdeen with damage caused by a bomb which passed through her fore peak and side without exploding.

S.S. LORD BYRON reported enemy air attack at 1840 5 miles S.E. of St. Govans L.V.

S.S. VESTLAND was damaged when Convoy M.H.48 was attacked at 1900 about 28 miles S.W. by S. of Bardsey Island.

S.S. CAMBRIA (Irish Mail Boat) reported being attacked in Dublin Bay at 1800 G.M.T. today.

Mining.

WESTMINSTER reports that an aircraft dropped two parachute mines, one of which exploded, about 2115, 14 miles south of the Outer Dowsing.

The Humber was closed on account of anticipated enemy minelaying, at 1950.

S.S. KIRSTEN MAERSK reports aircraft dropping mines at 1930A today in 52° 11' N. 5° 16' W.

North Atlantic.

The urgent necessity for sinking S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC justifies the risk of sinking other French ships in error. The Admiralty today gave permission for CLYDE to be used in place of the Dutch S/M O.24. If the ship sails in convoy the chance of misadventure will be accepted.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE reported at 1746Z today that she had sunk an enemy raider resembling ELANDSFONTEIN in 27° 53' S. 3° 55' W. The enemy ship, which did not open fire, scuttled herself, and DORSETSHIRE considers she was fuelling at least two U-boats when first sighted. For this reason DORSETSHIRE did not close the ship's boats.

Mediterranean.

Force B, after proceeding to Malta left again yesterday morning with Force K. to reach by dusk a position approx. 33° 40' N. 19° 20' E., in order to destroy an enemy convoy, assisted by A.S.V. Wellington. At 2330/30 C.S.7 detached Force K. to intercept a merchant ship reported by A.S.V. Wellington; and the ship, S.S.ADRIATICO (believed to be carrying artillery stores and ammunition) was sunk by Force K. at 0330/1 in 32° 52' N. 20° (?35' E.) At 0940/1 aircraft reported a destroyer and a tanker off Kerkenah Bank. Force K. intercepted and sank the tanker (MANTOVANI carrying about 10,000 tons of petrol &c.), which was already damaged by attack by Blenheims but proceeding S.E., and also sank the destroyer ALVISE DA MOSTO. Force K. suffered no damage or casualties.
V.A. Malta reports that when Force B. and Force K. are refuelled only 7000 tons of fuel will remain. He suggests that Force B. should escort BRECONSHIRE to Alexandria and that SYDNEY STAR, AJAX and CLAN FERGUSON, all 16 knots speed, should also make the passage. Force B. could escort BRECONSHIRE and tankers back to Malta.

Libya and Western Desert.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi last night.

It is reported that the Russian Black Sea Fleet. is now based on Novorossisk and Tuapse. The cruisers VOROSHILOV and CHERVONNAYA UKRAINA are both reported to have been seriously damaged by air attack.

JACKAL was hit by an aircraft torpedo at 1300 in 32° 15' N. 24° 41' E, but arrived at Alexandria under her own power.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

A state of emergency was proclaimed in Malaya today.

U-Boat Campaign.

An aircraft attacked and severely damaged a submerging U-boat at 1225 today in 46° 55' N. 11° 52' W. ZULU and SIKH were ordered to proceed to investigate.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Destroyers for Gibraltar.

My 1001A/30. Admty. 2246A/30.
My 0135A/1st. In order to retain "H" Class destroyers in Western Approaches, further propose (a) FOXHOUND sail with W.S.14 breaking off to Gibraltar to relieve the 2nd H. (b) ANTHONY or ACTIVE whichever is ready first, sail about mid December to relieve the 3rd H. (C.in C. W.A. 1142/1 to Admty.).

Swedish shipping.

In accordance with your 1658/15/11 and A.C.O.S. 1714/18 HORTEN was put on Skopen Fiord patrol and was damaged by air attack on 19/11 being relieved by "Y.C.37" who was similarly damaged on 20/11. The first Swedish ship did not arrive until 21/11. Request therefore that I may be kept informed as accurately as possible of expected time of arrival at Skopen of Swedish ships in order that H.M. ships may not be unnecessarily exposed to air attacks. It is understood Swedish ships transmit their position by W/T each 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1723A/1 to Admty.).

Ultimatum to Finland.

Ultimatum has been delivered to Finland that unless Finns cease military operations by 3/12, H.M.G. will declare that we are in a state of war with Finland. Date has been postponed until 5/12 and further extension is possible.
2. Instructions have already been issued through Colonial and Dominions Authorities that any Finnish ship in a British port is to be detained at once by administrative methods.
3. Upon war being declared -
(a) All Finnish ships in British ports are to be detained under armed guard and reported.
(b) Subject to (c) any Finnish ship encountered at sea is to be sent into a British port under armed guard.
(c) In order to minimise interference with U.S. cargoes any Finnish ship bound for, repeated for a U.S. port should be allowed to proceed unless there are grounds for suspecting that the Master does not intend to proceed to his correct destination.
(d) Ex Finnish ships transferred to flag of any American state;-
(i) lying in a British port when war is declared should be detained pending further instructions if still manned by Finnish crew;
(ii) are not, repeated not, to be intercepted at sea without special instructions.
4. Dutch are being asked to take parallel action. (A.C.N.S.T. 1727A/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia.

Oil stock at Murmansk. — Your 2230C/27. Concur. (4th S.L. 1150A/1 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Russian shipping. — Your 1532D/28/11. Required movements of Russian ships will be signalled twice weekly. (D.T.D. 1728A/1 to Ad. Miles).

Defence of U.K.

Falmouth A/A defences. — Your 1609/26/11. C.in C. Fighter Command, has decided to move in one additional battery Heavy A.A. (D.of L.D. 1536A/1 to C.in C. Plymouth).

Movements.

Sail HIGHLANDER, HESPERUS to Gibraltar at best speed after fuelling. Route. (C.in C. W.A. 0135A/1 to F.O.I.C. Londonderry). Arrived fuelled and sailed HIGHLANDER and HESPERUS. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1145A/1).

RAMILLIES. — Scapa departure RAMILLIES, ESCAPADE, and WHEATLAND. (A.C.O.S. 0943A/1).

ROBERTS. — Your 2312A/30. Monitor must be (?under escort) at all times at sea and available escort must be used at your discretion. My 1659A/30 part 2 last sentence is cancelled. If imperative to remain more than 24 hours necessary permission must be obtained from local authority. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1037/1 to (?) ROBERTS).

H.31. H.50. — At 2000A/3 intend to sail H.31 escorted by Z5 from Rothesay to arrive Lough Foyle at 0900A/4. S.of A. 8 1/2 knots. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail H50 escorted by Z5 to arrive Rothesay a.m. 5th. (Capt. S.7 1051A/1 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).

O.14. — Intend to sail O.14 from Scapa Flow at 1630/1 for Dundee escorted by LEICESTER CITY until joining convoy W.N.12 in 058° 32' N. 002° 46' W. at approx 1815/1st. Capt. S.9. is requested to arrange escort for O.14 on leaving convoy off Dundee. (A.C.O.S. 1125A/1 to Capt. S.9.). Sailed O.14 from Scapa in accordance with my 1125/1. (A.C.O.S. 1635A/1).

/A.M.C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1. 12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. -Contd.

A.M.C. movements.	Following forecast of A.M.C's leaving U.K. corrected to 1/12. (S.O.W.P. 1240/1).
P.511. P.551.	Report whether you have met Submarine P.511 and P.551. (C.in C. W.A. 1408A/1 to DANEMAN). Report your position. CUTTY SARK will R/V you in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/2. T.B.R. remain in force until further notice. (Capt. S.3. 1701A/1 to P.511). (1) Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1930A/1 to R.V with P.511 in 270° Barra Head 10 miles at 0900A/2 and escort her to Holy Loch. (2) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation for the return passage Holy Loch. S.of A. 10 knots. (Capt. S.3 1741A/1). Comply with my 1741A/1. Report when P.511 is met. (Capt. S.3. 1743A/1 to CUTTY SARK). Sail not later than 2000A today for escort duties given in para 4 (B) of H. L.S.77. (Capt. S.3 1814A/1 to CUTTY SARK). Sailed CUTTY SARK in accordance with my 1741A/1. (Capt. S.3. 2111A/1).
1st M/S Flotilla.	BRAMBLE, SPEEDY, SEAGULL arrived Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1415C/1).
Information for HEEMSKERCK YORK CITY.	3 tugs towing floating cranes escorted by 2 trawlers and 2 M.L's. bound to Clyde may be met during night. (C.in C. W.A. 1451A/1 to HEEMSKERCK).
TUNA.	WHITE BEAR and TUNA will arrive at 1100A/2. (WHITE BEAR 1625A/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
P.36.	On completion of exercise in S en at about 1600/3 P. 36 is to proceed through 050° 05' N. 2°W. 50° 12' N. 1° 18' W. to R/V position 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0815A/4. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1849/1).
Escort for CLEOPATRA.	Your 1959/30. Regret no destroyers are available from Home Fleet for this duty. (C.in C. H.F. 1917A/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Patrols.

Weather permitting carry out the following patrol operation tonight.
(1) 4th M.T.B. Flotilla patrol 'E'.
(2) 1st M.T.B. Flotilla patrol 'A'.
(3) 6th M.G.B. Flotilla position 51° 40' N. 2° 50' E. taking up patrol 'O' by 0630/2 if no previous contact is made.
M.T.B's may attack surface vessels without challenge to eastward of 2° 30' E.
(C.in C. Nore. 1120A/1 to BEEHIVE).
Your 0940A. M.L's. 146 (S.O.) 148 and 152.
Your 1127A (1) M.G.B's (L) 327 SO, 321 QE ~~and~~ one and 2 (11) M.G.B's. (L) 32° S.O. 329 QE 4A (iii) M.L's 206 S.O. 224 and 339.
Patrol to be fixed at approximately dusk.
(N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1450A/1 to C.in C. Nore).
Departures M.T.B. 30, 32, 34, M.T.B. 18, 71, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1632A/1).
Departure M.G.B's. 64 and 63.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1724A/1).

BERWICK
ONSLOW
OFFA
ICARUS.

BERWICK's 1709C/29. On completion of operation, ONSLOW is to be detached to Hvalfjord.
2. ICARUS is to proceed to Scapa on relief ONSLOW.
(C.in C. H.F. 1541A/1 to BERWICK).
BERWICK, ONSLOW, OFFA sailed from Murmansk. Admiralty pass to all addresses except Admiral Miles.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1545/1 to Admty. Reptd. C.in C. H.F. C.S.10. SHEFFIELD, HAZARD).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Vaaro and P.R.U. of Trondheim, Aalesund - Bergen in operation.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1109/1).

Bombing operations.

From day 28/11 to day 30/11 inclusive there were no operations. On night 30 Nov./1st Dec. 102 A/C reached Hamburg and dropped bombs, including several 4,000 lbs. causing several fires. A/C unable to reach the primary dropped their bombs on Westerland/Sylt, Lubeck, Friedrichstadt, Kiel, Bremerhaven, Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven, Heligoland, Norderney Seaplane Base, and Schleswig.
33A/C bombed Emden, starting large fires, and 2 A/C attacked the docks at Ostend. (H.Q.B.C. 1620/1).

Enemy Air Activity.

SKERRIES attacked on 30/11.

Master of S.S. SKERRIES. At 1220 B.S.T./30/11 when SKERRIES was 5 miles E. of Coningmore Rock she opened fire on unidentified Aircraft which attempted to fly over Vessel. She fired 4 H.E.

/12 Pdr.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

SKERRIES attacked on 30/11. -Contd.

12 Pdr. Shell 100 rounds .308 and 100 .303. The A/C flew away towards Eire. It was Seaplane Type and had a white vertical stripe on tail plane. Master considers that this plane was in vicinity during last attack and appeared to be doing spotting at that time. This is the third consecutive time this vessel has been attacked.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1119A/1).

Convoy P.W. 72 MACBRAE KNOLL on 28/11.

British Steamship MACBRAE and Norwegian Steamship KNOLL report engaging enemy aircraft in 5° 20' W. 50° 29' N. whilst sailing in P.W. 72 at 2130A/28. No bombs dropped. Aircraft hit with machine gun fire.
(N.O.I.C. Newport 1215A/1).

CAMBRIA attacked.

AAAA de GLV. Dublin Bay CAMBRIA attacked.
(Seaforth Radio 1800 G.M.T./1).
Following received.
Addressed Admiral Plymouth.
From Lands End Radio.
Intercept 1812 G.M.T.
De CAMBRIA. AAAA Seaplane last seen heading south from 2 miles West of Kish 1810/1.
(C.in C. W.A. 1920/1).

ROSS damaged.

ROSS attacked, bombs and machine gun, at 1730/1 and by machine gun at 1737, position one mile N.E. Aberdeen. ROSS now proceeding.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1837/1).
Returned Aberdeen under own steam. Bomb damage. (C.in C. Rosyth 1938/1, F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2003/1).
Cancel my 1721/1. Returned Harbour.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2004/1 to A.C.O.S.).

LORD BYRON.

AAAA 5 miles S.E. St. Govans L.V.
(LORD BYRON 1840/1 de GLD, C.C.O. Plymouth 1943/1).
Intercept 1835 G.M.T. AAAA 3 miles South east St. Govans L.V. de LORD BYRON. 1935/1.
Lands End Radio.
(C.C.O. Plymouth 1939/1).

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Bristol Channel. Confirmation of enemy minelaying.
(a) Nil.
(b) Bristol Channel and Flatholm. One 28/11.
(D.M.S. 1151A/1 to Air Ministry).

Operation "Tincture" Request you will repeat operation "Tincture" by p.m./6 in the manner described in my 1207A/10/9.
(D.M.S. 1357A/1 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

Search by M.S.9. 62 1/2% search of QZS 117 and 151 completed over 18½ cable front.
One Acoustic mine exploded in 51° 38.2' N. 1° 45' E. by BRIDPORT.
(M/S 9. 1445A/1 to C.in C. Nore).

Harwich Explosion reported in vicinity B.8 at 0640. Two green mines detonated at 1250 in 51° 43.9' N. 01° 03.6' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1457A/1 and 1833A/1).
Further to last para my 1457/1. One green mine detonated by sweeper at 1250/1. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2331A/1).

Thames Estuary. Two magnetic mines detonated at 0410/1 and 0640/1 respectively. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1511/1).

Humber. Humber is closed to navigation. Enemy minelaying. Anticipated time of opening 1130 tomorrow.
(F.O. Humber 1950/1).
Following twelve mines were exploded on 30/11 by L.L. trawlers. Details.
(F.O. Humber 2319A/1).

Off Outer Dowsing. My 2100. A/C dropped two parachute mines. One exploded, one fell in position 174° Outer Dowsing 14 miles. (WESTMINSTER 2115/1).

Enemy Intelligence.

German Main Units. Latest known positions.
(D.D.I.D. 1135A/1) See Lion Copy.

Three destroyers. A report, graded B.2. received that three German Destroyers passed Hellefiord (61° 36' N. 04° 58' E.). at 1300Z/1 course north.
(D.D.I.C. 1906A/1).

/Brest.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. -Contd.

Brest. Brest 1540/1/12. Preliminary interpretation of photographs show all three major units in usual positions. (D.D.I.C. 1950A/1).

Navigational.

Yarmouth. Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0905A/1). Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1315A/1).

White Sea Approaches A/S Nets. SHEFFIELD. Repeats 1735A/14/10, 2008A/27/10, and 1530A/27/11 (Admty.1535A/1 to SHEFFIELD).

Casualties & Defects.

TETRARCH KOOLGA VERDUN's 2341/30 is passed for information. Begins:- Grimsby trawler TETRARCH sunk after colliding near 20T Buoy with KOOLGA who has three survivors. Names. Other 9 of crew missing. Have searched area without result KOOLGA holed in fore peak proceeding to Methil. 2341A/30/11. Ends. (C.in C. Rosyth 0918/1).

STRAIDE. F.O.I.C. Belfast's 1656A/28/11 and 0903A/29/11. STRAIDE not arrived Oban. 14 Groups headquarter also state not arrived Kyle. Lighthouse keeper McArthurs Head Lighthouse reports not seen passing in Sound of Islay. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1158A/1). N.O.I.C. Oban's 1158/1. Arrived Lochalsh. (N.O.I.C. Lochalsh 1258/1).

STINGRAY My 0915/1. STINGRAY returned to Douglas with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 1230A/1).

VENOMOUS Sailed VENOMOUS in tow of Harbour Tugs for Ardrossan. Thence for docking at Troon A.M. tomorrow. E.T.A. Ardrossan 1600. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1304A/1).

LADY ROSE. (? LADY ROSE) dragged ashore during gale on night 28/29. Boiler room frames fractured and extensive A/S damage suffered. Frames are being repaired by H.M.S. HECLA but A/S defects are too extensive to be undertaken here. Ship will be ready for sea in about

/3 days....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

LADY ROSE -Contd. — 3 days. Intend sailing her direct to St. John's N.F. (A.C.I.C. 1307N/1).

DANEHILL (Harbour patrol motor boat) sunk. — Regret to report loss of A/P M/B DANEHILL due to fire and subsequent explosion when taking in petrol at 1500 today. Casualties, which include ratings from other vessels named, are as follows. Names. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 1826/1).

BESTUM (Damaged by A/C 22/11). — Arrivals Tugs KENIA and LADY BRASSEY towing S.S. BESTUM, salvage vessel FOREMAST 18 in company. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2224A/1).

Shipping & Convoys.

Times of sailings from Liverpool. — Your 2301A/25/11. Concur. (A.C.O.S. 1250A/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

W.S.14. — Admiralty's 0029A/26.
(i) VANQUISHER, S.O., WITCH, VOLUNTEER are to escort ABOSSO from Liverpool to arrive Clyde dawn 6th.
(ii) RAMILLIES, VANQUISHER, WITCH, VOLUNTEER are to sail.
(a) From Clyde to arrive Milford Haven A.M. 7th
(b) From Milford Haven to arrive position (x) at 1200Z/10.
(iii) Route subject to concurrence of C.in C. Plymouth (?) QZF 18 thence to position (x).
(iv) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to arrange fuelling of destroyers at Ponta Delgada in accordance with Admty. 1250B/4/8.
(C.in C. W.A. 1421A/1).
On completion of escort duty with B.B.7 POZARICA is to be sailed as convenient to R/V at 1330A/6 with W.S.14. off Bar Light Vessel and act as A/A escort to Oversay R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1826A/1).

Your 1421A/1. Concur in route.
(C.in C. Plymouth 2208/1 to C.in C. W.A.).

F.N.64 EMPIRE CLIFF. — Your 1231/28. EMPIRE CLIFF not arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1449/1).

/ P.W. 74.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. -Contd.

P.W.74. BROCKLESBY is to remain with P.W.74 and escort tankers to Milford Haven. Remainder of group 'B' to proceed in execution of previous orders. Tankers now at Falmouth to join at 'D' buoy. BROCKLESBY pass to CORNELIAN.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1502/1).

Convoy escorts. Owing to the reduction of the 15th D.F.
1. Escort groups (PCWO2) will each consist of trawlers without any specific destroyer as from 1/12.
2. The destroyers will provide additional escort for important convoys.
3. To implement this it is requested the earliest information may be given of intended sailings of category II ships so as a destroyer may be made available.
4. It is recognised this may cause delay to certains ships.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1518/1).

Kirkwall. Pass to N.C.S.O's. Exmination vessel has been withdrawn from North Eastern entrance to Wide Forth Kirkwall and this entrance is now being used by local craft only. All ships routed to Kirkwall should be directed to enter by Shapinsay Sound.
(D.T.D. 1705A/1).

O.S.12. Your 1354A. O.S. 12 not met after search, WELLINGTON in company. P.C.S. 034° 20' N. 028° 05' W. 037° 13.
(GORLESTON 1930Z/1 to F.O.C.N.A.).

B.B.6 H. YORK CITY's 2000A/1. Owing to possible enemy mines laid convoy keep clear to starboard of 052° 24' N. 005° 13' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 2152A/1 to HEEMSKERCK).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

1.12.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH defect. — Regret must leave patrol with leaking boiler tube. Can remain here about 2 hours for relief. (SCOTTISH, 0730A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)
F.O.C.N.A.'s 1550 and 1741/30. Relieved by IMPERIALIST. E.T.A. 0430/2nd, passing coast wise. (SCOTTISH, 2115Z/1 to F.O.C.N.A.) (By W/T)
F.O.C.N.A's 1550 and 1741/30. Relieved by CAPE TRAFALGAR. E.T.A. 0430/2, passing coast wise. (SCOTTISH 2115A/1 to F.O.C.N.A, by W/T and T/P).

CYCLAMEN. — Arrived Ponta Delgada 0815 G.M.T./1st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0903/1 to S.O.I. Gib.).

S/M torpedoes. — Admty. 1219A/29. For 1720B/6 read 1040B/16. (D.T.S.D. 1105/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SERAFIN TOPIC. — Your 1813A and your 1924A/29. Unless risk of sinking French shipping can be accepted consider task of identification (?imposes) (?unjustifiable) responsibility on C.O. of a Dutch S/M. (F.O.C.N.A. 1112A/1 to Admty.)
Your 1112/1. Urgent necessity for sinking this ship with her cargo of rubber justifies some risk being taken. No objection to CLYDE being used instead of the Dutch submarine. If ship is sailed in convoy, submarine must do her best and the chance of misadventure will be accepted. (1st S.L. 2231A/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1336A/30th (Not to Admty. but Admty. 1924/29 to F.O.C.N.A. refers). Further particulars from photographs (details). (Capt. S.8. 1340A/1 to S/M O.24).

ZULU. — Sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1601A/28. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1220/1 to C. in C. W.A., rep. Admty. S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)
C. in C. W.A. 1426A/1 (instruction to proceed to position of damaged U-boat.) My P. C. and S. 050° 01' 014° 42' 148° 20, delayed by Head Sea. If no further A/C reports are received by 2000 intend to resume passage Gibraltar. Admiralty's 1249A, 5572 3157. (ZULU 1700A/1 to C. in C. W.A., Admty.)
Your 1700A/1. Concur. (C. in C. W.A., 1931A/1 to ZULU).

Salvage Tug Azores. — My 1041/20. Still unable to obtain definite reply re SALVONIA. Fear this means request will not be approved. (N.A. Lisbon 1230/1 to Admty.)

JAY. — Arrived and bunkered. (V. Consul, Horta, 1303/1 to Admty.)

/IMPERIALIST...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

IMPERIALIST.	Departure H.M.T. IMPERIALIST for Y.3. (V.A.C.N.A. 1343A/1 to Admty.)
M/V.	One Merchant Vessel 215, 15, 100, 140, 53° N., 12° W., 26. (HAREBELL, 1415/1 to Gibraltar C.C.O.).
LEGION. ISAAC SWEERS (refits)	Admty. 1655A/26/11 is cancelled. (D.O.D. (F) 1544A/1 to S.O. Force H rep. F.O.C.N.A. etc.)
French Shipping.	French CARIMARE in ballast, CAPITATNE ARMAND Laden, PESCAGEL Laden, ALFRED light, escorted by LE TOULONAISE, passing eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib. 1545A/1 to Admty. C. in C. Med.).
LONDONDERRY.	Arrived Ponta Delgada 1730 G.M.T./1st. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1630/1 to S.O.I. Gib.)
CASTILLO FIGUERAS. (Spanish).	Sailed 30th. Informed loaded 4 aeroplanes here, destination believed to be Spain. (Las Palmas 1700/1 to Admty.)
A/C, Tangier.	Hurricane force-landed on beach 3 miles south of Spartel 1620. Pilot safe. Do what you can. (F.O.C.N.A. 1736A/1, to Consul-Gen., Tangier)
LUCY ESSBERGER.	Alleged that (1) German Tanker LUCY ESSBERGER is fuelling U-boat inside harbour between 2300 and 0100 night and (2) that a launch is supplying other German ships present with considerable quantity of foodstuff for re-distribution to U-boats. Please comment after careful consideration and enquiry. What is LUCY ESSBERGER's cargo? (S.O.I. Gib., 1808A/1 to Consul, Cadiz, rep. N.A. Madrid).
REGENT. URSULA.	Onward route. REGENT through J 038° 35' 006° 00' E., K 037° 20' 000° 00' L. 035° 40' 002° 45' W. M. 035° 40' 005° 00' W., adjusting speed to pass through K at 0200/6 and L 0700/7 to arrive Gibraltar 0900/8. URSULA through N 038° 05' 006° 00' E., P 036° 55', 000° 00', L and M adjusting speed passing through P at 0200/7 L at 0700/8 to arrive Gibraltar 0900/9. S/M to report on crossing 003° E. if unable to comply with above time within one hour. S.B.R. arranged. S/M change wireless watch at 0001/6 to normal watch on Gibraltar broadcast shifting to read M.S. routines. All times zone minus 1. (F.O.C.N.A. 2208A/1 to REGENT, URSULA)

/0.21.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

0.21. Admty. 1838A/22/10. Intend to sail 0.21 for U.K. on 6th. Time and position of crossing (? 043°) N. will be signalled later. 0.21 will carry 6 torpedoes. (F.O.C.N.A., 2236A/1 to Admty.)

South Atlantic.

DUNEDIN lost. Regret to report that DUNEDIN has failed to return from patrol in Area H.34 C. and must be considered lost. U-Boat presumed in view of German claim to have sunk 'D' Class in Atlantic.
(2) DUNEDIN failed to answer signals P.M./24 and 25th. BRIDGEWATER who was on patrol 300 miles from Freetown was ordered to search probable area which she reached on 28th.
(3) CANTON was also ordered to search to N.E. from St. Paul's Rock Area commencing on 26th then to R/V with BRIDGEWATER in position 2° N. 26° 55' W. P.M./28 and to continue search till P.M./30. Nothing has been sighted.
(4) DEVONSHIRE continuing search in conjunction with her patrol of Area H.34 C for enemy surface units. (C. in C. S.A., 0155N/1 to Admty.)
My 0155N/1/12. Presumably owing to sailing at very short notice ship failed to comply with App. 23 - 2 - 3A and neither ledger or copy of Cash Account was left at Freetown before proceeding to sea. Information as to changes in officer and ratings borne which are known to have taken place locally since 30/9 is being collected and will be reported as soon as possible.
(C. in C. S.A. 1703N/1 to Admty.)

DERWENTDALE. HOXA and ROMEO escorting R.F.A. DERWENTDALE arrived. DERWENTDALE proceeded in accordance with N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1103Z/26. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 0403Z/1 to Admty. etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

O.S. Convoy Routes.

Your 1439A/30/11. Concur with these proposals. (C. in C. S.A., 1204N/1 to Admty.)

Durban Sector System.

A.M. 2329A/23/11. If not already done N.L.O. Durban should start organising the Sector System for that port. It should be in operation by 10/12. (C. in C. S.A., 1303N/1 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Raider sunk by DORSETSHIRE.

One enemy supply ship or raider sunk in 027° 53' S. 003° 55' W. 6 boat loads of survivors plus further 5 boats seen in position close by. Strongly suspect U-boat present. Do not intend to close boats. Suggest one of escort of W.S.12X. be diverted. Weather calm (weather report). (DORSETSHIRE, 1746Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

DORSETSHIRE 1746Z/1 is passed to you. Strongly support DORSETSHIRE's suggestion that Opnav be asked to divert some of escort of W.S.12 X. to rescue survivors and (?detain). (C. in C. S.A. 1745N/1 to Admty.)

Your 1746Z/1. Keep well clear to westward during the night. You may be required to direct escort ship to which you refer to position using your aircraft. Report further details of encounter. (C. in C. S.A., 1755N/1 to DORSETSHIRE)

My 1746Z/1. On sighting DORSETSHIRE, enemy made off at high speed leaving behind 2 power boats and 3 cutters full of stores and fuel. When stopped later by warning shot enemy made C.S. smoke, abandoned ship and scuttled by 2 heavy explosive charges and fire. Survivors are in 15 boats and one raft estimated by aircraft about 500 in number. Consider ship was a raider with strong resemblance to ELANDSFONTEIN and without doubt was fuelling at least one or two U-boats when first sighted. Ship did not fire on DORSETSHIRE. Am resuming courses and speeds in compliance with your 1251N/30 passing through 029° 00' S. 002° 30' W. at 0001Z/2 when course will be altered to search for L.36 as ordered. (DORSETSHIRE, 2050Z/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Proposed.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1.12.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Proposed. Search for Enemy ships, and A/S operation. If it is thought possible that another supply ship is in area South of St. Helena or approaching (? it) from the northward intend to direct Cdre. Com. S.A. to organise a comprehensive search as soon as calm area in that vicinity. With Oiler ARNDALE and ECHODALE this Force could keep the sea for quite a month. I could send DERBYSHIRE from Cape to join Cmdre. Com. S.A. unless required for onward escort of W.S.12 X. I am satisfied that ROYAL SOVEREIGN after fuelling at Pointe Noire Bay can make passage with W.S. 12 Z to Durban. It is for consideration whether ASTER and MARGUERITE should not work with this force in hope of destroying U-boats before they become a threat at Cape. (C. in C. S.A. 1809N/1 to Admty.)

Whale Catchers. Your 2220/10. Propose that
(A) Storing and provisioning arrangements for all whalecatchers proceeding beyond Capetown should be undertaken by M.W.T.R., Capetown, who is agreeable. Previous experience with similar vessels has shown that it is not advisable for them to be dealt with by Dockyard in view of differences between Naval and Merchant Shipping practice and of resultant accounting chaos.
(B) Fuelling arrangements to be undertaken by R.N. Request information whether, by terms of charter, fuel is an Admiralty liability or should be supplied commercially. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1930B/1 to Admty.) Reply: 2112A/3.

ASTER. MARGUERITE. ECHODALE. E.T.A. position D. with ECHODALE 1300Z/6. ASTER, MARGUERITE assuming W/T organisation for area Q at 1400Z/2. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/1, 007° 34' S. 013° 20' W. 176° 8 knots. Weather. (ASTER, 2030Z/1, to C. in C. S.A.)

Shipping Diversion. Pass to Senior N.C.S.O. Capetown.
N.C.S.O. Capetown's 1040Z/30. Add to A.M. 2331A/30. "Ships which will cross 05° E. before 10/12 are also still to be routed South and West of 30°. S. and 15° W".
(D.T.D., 2055A/1 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SEVERN. SEVERN will adjust speed to arrive position F at 0730A/9/12 (My 1955N/30/11, not to SEVERN).
(C. in C. S.A. 2201N/1 to F.O.C.N.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B. R/C suggests Italian U-boat may pass north westward between THUNDERBOLT and TRUSTY during next 24 hours probably aft 0001B/2 and to eastward UPHOLDER after 0001B following day making for Taranto. It is to be attacked if identity can be definitely established. (V.A. Malta, 0009B/1 to S/M's on Patrol).

Libya. Military Situation Reports, Cositrep 24, 25 26. (C. in C. M.E. 0100/1, 1647/1, 2247/1) See Lion Copy.

Enemy M/V. Ship C with one destroyer now expected approach Benghazi from N.E. about dawn today Monday. Other M.Vs. have probably turned back. (V.A. Malta, 0130B/1, to C.S.7.).

RAMB IV ashore. Following received begins:- Admiral Plymouth. Received 0238/G.M.T. from RAMB IV to G.B.X.Z. Am ashore at Ras El Mehl, about 60 miles East of Tobruk. Require Tug. Master, Hospital ship. Not re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0339/1 to Admty.)
RAMB IV ashore off Ras El Mehl. Destroyers should save life but not tow. ST. MONANCE is being sent. (C. in C. Med., 0716B/1 to Capt. D.14)
Following received Alexandria W/T from RAMB IV. Am afloat and proceeding on voyage, only apparent damage Fore Peak making water, expect can control. Master. T.O.R. 0300. (Nore W/T. 0732/1 to Whitehall).
Cancel my 0716/1. RAMB IV afloat and proceeding. (C. in C. Med. 0820/1 to Capt. D.14).
P.C. and S. at 1500. 032° 08' N. 025° 10' E. 117° 14 knots. Towing probably unnecessary. (Capt. D.14, 1451/1 to C.S.15, C. in C. Med.)

DELPHINIUM. Your 1748/30. DELPHINIUM sailed 0630/1 direct. E.T.A. Beirut 1100C/2. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 0836B/1 to N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports).

Enemy M/V's. Position of enemy 2 merchant vessels 43.43 N., 11.11 E. 306° 8. (Med. A/C Call Sign D07 (Duty J) 0855/1 to Med. A/C)

/D.14.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

D.14 patrol.	My 1218B/30. Para. A. Turn westward so as to repeat patrol off Derna by 0300/2, carrying out A/S search sweeping of route of A.T.I. convoy (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2149/29 refers), paying particular attention to Ras al Melh (Ras El Mehl?) to Tobruk area after dark tonight, 1st. Return Alexandria on completion Derna patrol as ordered in para A. (C.in C. Med. 0939/1 to Capt. D.14).
Enemy destroyer.	My 0925B/30. Similar destroyer P.C. and S. 036° 01' N. 023° 06' E. 264° 24 knots. Weather report. (TALISMAN 1123B/1 to Capt. S.1.
UPHOLDER THRASHER.	After 0800B/2 operate:- UPHOLDER in area H within 25 miles of Colonne THRASHER in area K east of 018° 20' between 039° 00' and 040° 00'. (V.A. Malta 1128B/1 to UPHOLDER, THRASHER).
Enemy Unit.	P.C. and S. of enemy (?DAIL) vessel 33.45 N., 22.30 E., 030 675 T 1 - 2 - 0. (A/C 203 Sq. duty M. 1135/1 to 201 Group).
EGELAND ashore.	Following from Sub. Lieut. Enja, for C.in C. Royal Norwegian Navy: H.M.N.S. EGELAND run ashore Palestine Coast, full of water with heavy list. Further details when available. Cdr. Scoff-Hansen now at Haifa. (C.in C. Med. 1151/1 to Admty.).
Movements.	Arrival 30/11 GRIFFIN, HERO, HASTY, NIZAM, HEYTHROP, M.L. 1048, M.L. 1051, AVON VALE, Greek destroyer IERAX, Greek S/M TRITON. Departures 30 /11 TRUANT, JERVIS, KIPLING, JACKAL, JAGUAR, HERO, HASTY, NAIAD, EURYALUS, CHAKDINA, PEONY, FLAMINGO, Fleet tug ST. ISSEY, YARRA, (Greek S/M PROTEUS), ? (KHEIR) DINE, HILMI, HEYTHROP, AVON VALE, SOUTHERN SEA, THORGRIM, Greek destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Arrivals 1/12 SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN MAID. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1205B/1).
UNIQUE	UNIQUE leaves Malta p.m./1 for Area G 037° 30' 016° 05' - 350° - 49 - 30. (Capt. S.10 1207B/1 to V.A. Malta).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

UNIQUE - Contd.	My S.H.M. 2154/27/11 (N.T. in W.R.) UNIQUE left Malta P.M./1 for area G. (Capt. S.10, 1817B/1 to P.34).
Russian Black Sea Fleet.	My 1350/30. N.L.O. Black Sea also reported Black Sea Fleet is now based on Novorossisk and Tuapse, also that U.S.S.R. Cruisers VOROSHILOV and CHERVONNAYA UKRAINA had both been (?seriously) damaged by bombs. Russians still hold Sevastopol, all remainder of Crimea believed to be in German hands. Message was corrupt but date of (? despatch) probably 25/11. (C. in C. Med. 1211B/1 to Adty.)
ABBAZIA. (Italian).	My 1233/23 report from several sources including C.X. that (A) ABBAZIA at Piraeus, Crew refuse to sail to Istanbul. (B) Italian Crew generally reluctant to sail to Aegean. C.20. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1218B/1 to S.O.I. Med.)
1st S/M Flot.	My 1121B/1st. Propose that Capt. (S) 1 resumes operational control of 1st Flotilla from 0800B tomorrow Tuesday. (V.A.Malta, 1219B/1 to C. in C. Med.)
Malta Fuel, Force B.	Your 1251B/29. When Force B and Force K are refuelled only 7,000 tons of fuel will remain. To save your Force from Alexandria meeting BRECONSHIRE I suggest that Force B escort her all the way to Alexandria. It is for consideration whether SYDNEY STAR, AJAX, CLAN FERGUSON, all 16 knots speed, should also make passage. Force B. could then escort BRECONSHIRE or and tankers back to Malta. (V.A. Malta 1237B/1 to C. in C. Med.)
Jibuti.	Re terms of surrender. (C. in C. M.E. 1420/1 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.
OLYMPUS.	(1) OLYMPUS reports at 0536Z/29 fired 2 torpedoes at unescorted northbound ship of about 3000 tons in 037° 49' 011° 57', missed. (11) Mine-sweepers sweeping South from Levanzo Island 20 miles. (111) After 24 hours leave each watch intend sailing OLYMPUS P.M./3 for Gibraltar direct. (Capt. S.10 1535B/1 to Capt. S.8).

/A/S.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

A/S Sweep by 7 D.F.

Take GRIFFIN, DECOY, HOTSPUR under your orders. Leave 0600/2 to carry out anti-submarine sweep westward along coastal shipping route passing 025° 30' about 1800/2. Proceed thence establishing patrol approx. 30 miles N. of Derna by 0300/3 to intercept enemy as in my 1218B/30 para. 1. Close Derna at dawn and then withdraw N.E. and return to Alexandria. Fighter codeword "Frank". (C. in C. Med., 1555/1 to Capt. D.7).

SALZBURG.

B.2. report states arrived Piraeus A.M. 25/11, discharged horses and mules, and sailed again P.M./25 escorted by a destroyer. (D.S. 818).

LANCE.

Docked for rudder repairs. Anticipate complete 6/12. (A.S., Malta, 1642B/1 to C. in C. Med.)

M/V attacked.

1 tanker 7,000 tons, positions at 0740 and 1002 hours. (H.Q. Malta 1803/1).
6 Blenheims sent to attack 1105 hours from mast height 112° Melita 65 miles. 2 Bombs bounced off superstructure 2 others hit funnel. (H.Q. Malta, 1818/1)

Destroyer and 2 M/V's sunk by Force K.

Am returning to Malta for fuel. Have sunk one destroyer, one 8,000 ton (?tanker) and one 6,000 ton merchant ship all (?Southbound). My P.C. and S. are 034° 05' N. 012° 48' E. 040° 17 knots. (S.O. Force K, 1900B/1 to V.A. Malta, C.S.7).

Blenheim Sweep cancelled.

Ref. my A.233 T.O.O. 1456/1 (N.T. in W.R.) 4 Blenheims will not carry offensive sweep off coast of Ras-El-Tin to 021° 40' E. tonight. (201 Group 1904B/1 to Med. Fleet at Sea, etc.)

Free French Craft, Zeila.

Your 0043/22/11. These are the craft referred to in Admty. 1215/5/11 and consist of 2 motor launches ABEILLE and HERON both now at Zeila. HERON is being transferred to Aden. Motor launch REWAN, and RASLI, which is a small tug, are also at Aden. These two latter were captured in Gulf of Tajura. As regards message quoted F.O.C. Red Sea Force states no inshore patrol has been established or is contemplated. (C. in C. Med. 1911B/1 to Admty.)

/APHIS.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

APHIS. M/L's.	APHIS and Motor Launches operating off coast returning before daylight. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 1927B/1 to Capt. D.14).
Air Attack on C.S.15.	201 Group 1456B/1 (N.T. in W.R.) Have been heavily engaged, possibly Blenheims, request they may be recalled. (C.S.15, 2101/1 to C. in C. Med.) Your 2101/1. Not Blenheims. Offensive aircraft sweep has been cancelled. (C. in C. Med., 2144B/1 to C.S.15).
ERICE (Italian)	Sent out S.O.S. at 2040/1 from 38.00 N., 11.30 E. (D.S. 819, 2/12).
U/B's	My 1218B/30. Para. C. Further 2 N. of 032° 00' N. 023° 20' E. (C. in C. Med., 2147B/1 to C.S.15)
KONDOURIOTIS.	Greek destroyer KONDOURIOTIS on passage from Mersa Matruh to Alexandria tonight. (R.A. Alexandria 2226B/1 to D.14, C.S.15, D.7).
Movements.	Arrivals 1/12 AJAX, NEPTUNE, KIMBERLEY, KINGSTON. Departure UNIQUE. (V.A. Malta, 2240B/1 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SPRINGTIDE. Request you will sail SPRINGTIDE to Singapore forthwith. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1550A/1 to C. in C. E.I.)

MAUNA KEA. Have you any news of American MAUNA KEA due Calcutta 20/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D. 1824A/1 to N.C.S.O. Calcutta).

VELEBIT. Report received from native woodman in North Andaman, Islands announces the presence of 6 survivors from Yugoslav VELEBIT, 4153 tons. Believed this ship was sunk by a raider in Indian Ocean on about 26/6/41. (D.S., 818, 1/12).

China.

BENALDER. Your 1708/29/11. BENALDER arrived Singapore 18/11 reported in N.C.S. Singapore 0459/18/11 to Fairmiss. Ship will remain in Singapore for another two weeks. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 0731Z/1 to Admty).

Situation Japan. Following for C. in C. Far East, Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips, (R) Cdre. Hong Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.49.
U.S. - Japanese Talks in Washington have broken down but apparently are not finally broken off. Kurusu has not left Washington. The President has handed Mr. Kurusu a note, couched in general terms, re-asserting principles about integrity of China, equality of treatment, respect of engagements, abandonment by Japan of Tripartite Pacts etc. The modus vivendi described in my 2138A/29 was abandoned, largely because of hostility to it shown by Chiang Kai Shek. On 28th U.S. Naval and Military Authorities sent out a telegram which placed their forces in the first state of readiness.
Mr. Hull told Lord Halifax on 29th that situation had not changed but that he felt pretty sure Japan would take some early action under pressure from extremists. Mr. Roosevelt has been informed that it may be necessary for us to take action to forestall Japanese landing on Kra Isthmus and asked whether we can expect American support in that event. His reply is not likely to be received before Monday, 1/12 at earliest.
Mr Kurusu is seeing Mr. Hull at 1000 today but nothing is known about subject to be discussed.
(1st S.L., 1356A/1 to C.O.I.S. Singapore)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

DUC D'AUMALE, BAHRAM.

Your 1251R/29 (N.T.) DUC D'AUMALE and BAHRAM entered Gulf of Paria 29 and 30/11 respectively destination Carapito.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 09470/1 to S.O.(I) Kingston)

Shipping Route.

Your 1513N/28. Do not consider this is necessary unless more definite reports of enemy activities are received. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1020A/1 to C. in C. S.A.)

T.C.16, T.C.17.

Request reply to my 1917A/18. A.M.1907A/20 refers.
2. As we have had to send destroyer reinforcements to the Mediterranean it would be particularly helpful if U.S. authorities could escort these convoys. (V.C.N.S. 1136A/1 to B.A.D.)
Your 1917A/18 your 1907A/20 and your 1136A/1.
Opnav agreed escort T.C.16 due to leave Canada 14/12 provided:-
(i) That it is combined with U.S. troop convoy leaving New York 12/12.
(ii) That British escort relieves at a point far enough W. and N. to conform to route of U.S. troop convoys to Iceland(G)
(iii) That omission of U.S. escort for C.T.8 is accepted.
(iv) That it is understood asdefinite decision cannot be given now about T.C.17 but it is anticipated it can be similarly managed in connection with U.S. troop convoy due to leave New York about 20/1. Request your remarks concerning these. proposals.
(B.A.D., 1933R/1 to Admty) Reply 1744/3.

U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

Disposition Asiatic Fleet 1700 G.C.T. 30/11/1941.
Balik Papan. 8 destroyers, Destroyer Tender BLACK HAWK, MARBLEHEAD (light cruiser) en route Balik Papan from Manila (28/11 - 2/12) HOUSTON (heavy cruiser), Oiler PECOS, Seaplane Tender LANGLEY (old aircraft carrier).
Manila. 5 Destroyers, 27 submarines. Cruiser LOUISVILLE escorting PRESIDENT COOLIDGE and the SCOTT depart Manila 28/11, go through Molucca Strait and Tores Strait to arrive Honolulu on about 15/12. Cruiser BOISE convoying CAPE FAIRWEATHER, AMERICAN LEADER, PRESIDENT GRANT, JOHN LYKES, DONA, departed Honolulu 18/11 to arrive Manila 4/12, 1100 G.C.T.
Forces are thus disposed for fuelling with no immediate plan for any change.
(B.A.D., 1255R/1 to Admty C. in C. China etc).
Contents my 1255/1 were passed to B.A.D. Washington at personal direction of U.S. C.N.O. It is not anticipated this information will be given regularly to B.A.D. Washington, but U.S. C.N.O. assumes that C. in C. China is informed of such movements by C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

/If....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Asiatic Fleet. Contd.

If you require regular information of U.S. Navy disposition in Far East special arrangements must be made. Communication through Ghormley appears the best method.
(B.A.D. 2035R/1 to Admty).

Minimum Speed for Atlantic Passenger Ships.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. No merchant ship, whether in convoy or not, which is unable to maintain a speed of 12 knots under normal weather conditions is to be permitted to carry more than 12 passengers when passing through the Atlantic (defined for this purpose as westward of Cape Town and eastward of 60° W) without special permission from the Admiralty.
Masters of ships carrying more than 12 passengers bound for destinations in the Atlantic are to be warned that, in the event of the speed of their ship unexpectedly falling below 12 knots during a voyage, they are to report the fact to the N.C.S.O. at their last port of call prior to entry into these waters. In such cases Admiralty approval is to be obtained before a vessel is permitted to proceed into Atlantic Waters whilst carrying more than 12 passengers.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1339A/1 to A.I.G.19 and 26).

Convoy Diversion Code.

Your 1040Z/30, affirmative.
(Opnav, 1411/1 to Admty).

Martinique Intelligence.

French DUC D'AUMALE departed Fort De France 28/11 for Caripito and Laguaira, French tanker BAHR departed same date for Caripito to take on fuel oil for St. Thomas, French WYOMING arrived Fort De France 28/11.
(Opnav, 1438Z/1 to Admty rep. C. in C. A.W.I. etc)

O.N.41.

Unit 4.1.5 composed of MAYO (SO) RABBIT LEARY SCHENCK and NICHOLSON? designated O.N.41 escort.
(Opnav, 1450Z/1 to Admty).

S.C.58.

Task Force No.4.1.12 ST. LAURENT (S.O.) NASTURTIUM, HEPATICA, MOOSEJAW, WINDFLOWER, P (? IC)TOU, BUCTOUCHE, TRILLIUM. (2) Wabana, Nil.
(C.C.N.F., 1623Z/1 to Com Task Force 4 Admty etc).

Communication with U.S.

Your 2019R/25. Grid Signal is now being passed in Type X. American Embassy has requested Opnav to pass groups to you for retransmission to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa as soon as direct T/P line available. Request commencing date.
(D.T.D., 1746A/1 to B.A.D.)

/COAST....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

COAST MERCHANT. Your 1517/30. U.S. COAST MERCHANT arrived Portland Oregon 17/11. (D.N.I. Ottawa, 2002Z/1 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

NORG (overdue). My 1515R/30. Ship arrived today Monday. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2054/1 to Admty etc).

Australia.

PARAMATTA. R.A.D. Med.'s 1914B/29. Request advice when news can be published in Australia. In view of advice going to next of kin and probability of rumours spreading following SYDNEY announcement, considered early publication desirable. (A.C.N.B., 0333Z/1 to Admty).

New Minesweepers. Request all BATHURST Class minesweepers building on Imperial account when completed may now be sailed to Singapore to work up with 21st Flotilla. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1559A/1 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1442 G.M.T./30. Following received from R.C.A.F:- U.S. Fortress R-46 reported sighting what appeared to be S/M diving at 1442 GMT/30, 50° 45' N., 55° 52' W. Visibility at time poor. Circled over area but nothing further seen.
(C.C.N.F., 0125Z/1, to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

? 30/11. Add to my 1552A/30/11. (N.T. in W.D.) In 47° 16' N., 03° 20' W., steering 180° 14 knots. U-boat was 500 tons.
(F.O.S. 1009A/1 to Admty.)

Estimated approx., positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1419A/1, 1420A/1.)

1045/1. A man employed at R.A.F. Station Greian Head reports seeing 1 unknown S/m. 237° Greian Head 2 miles 220° at 1045/1. Visibility poor. No shipping in vicinity.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1444/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Oban.)

0300/24. Fishing trawler COLLEAGUE G.N.53 skipper Donald Mackay reports having sighted unidentified S/M without lights on surface at 0300/24/11, 20 miles W 1-2 S from Cape Wrath, speed 12 knots, steering towards RHU STOER.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 1622A/1, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

1000. Transit aircraft reported U-boat in vicinity of Corunna at 1000/1. Course and speed not observed.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1858A/1, to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 30/11. Your 0007/1. (Not circulated in Admiralty. Requested P.C. and S. of enemy S/M.) At 2125A P.C. and S. (?245°) Spartel 14,060° 15 knots. Submarine disappeared after depth charge attack by A/C.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0105A/1 to Capt. D.19.)
My 2145/30 (N.T. in W.R.) and my 0105A/1st to Capt.(D) 19 only. Depth charges from A/C were dropped 15 and 20 feet from S/M which heeled over and disappeared. Oil was still appearing when A/C left vicinity 2½ hours later. M.L. has arrived in vicnity of oil patch.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0130A/1 to Groups 1 and 2.)

/1 Swordfish....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 30/11. Contd.

1 Swordfish attacked U-boat position 245 Spartel 12 at 1940. 2 depth charges dropped, near misses registered. U-boat covered in spray, heeled over to port, and disappeared. Large patch of oil appeared. A/C stayed 2½ hrs dropping flares over position. Nothing further sighted, left M/L over oil patch.
(200 Group, 1840/1, to Air Min.)

By A/C 1145.

Whitley A/C T/502 attacked U/B on surface at 1145/1 in 47.25 N., 12° W., 257 Ushant 290, co. 255° 6 knots. Attacked with D./C's and M/G.
(D.S. 819, 2/12.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46.55N., 11.52W.
(A/C T 1148/1. T.O.R. 1215, to 19 Group.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was on the surface on a course of 255°. Speed 6 knots.
(A/C T. 1203/1 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy (unknown) with depth charges. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack. Oil and air bubbles seen.
(A/C T., 1225/1, to 19 Group.)
Proceed at best speed through 046° 55' N., 011° 52' W., where aircraft attacked a submerging U-boat and severely damaged it at 1225/1, air co-operating.
(C. in C.W.A., 1426A/1, to ZULU, SIKH.)
Details of air attack. (Chivenor, 1840/1 to 19 Group.) See Lion Copy.

By EXMOOR, 28/11.

C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) EXMOOR (B) 1812/28/11. (C) 047° 53' N., 015° 51' W., (D) 3 (E) 1831.
(EXMOOR, 2001A/1, to Admty., etc.)

By EXMOOR 1/12.

C.A.F.O. 834/41. (A) EXMOOR. (B) 1235/1/12. (C) 035° 55' N., 006° 48' W. (D) 5. (E) 1323.
(EXMOOR, 2002/1 to Admty., etc.)

By A/C 2155A.

1 submarine bearing 270° distance 10 miles.
(A/C using Call Sign, 2155A/1, to Gibraltar W/T.)
Details, see 0922A/2.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The protection of shipping in the Western Approaches during the coming winter is causing the greatest anxiety owing to the completely inadequate number of our long range patrol aircraft. The Admiralty are asking if the U.S. can help.

Yarmouth was closed for a short time this forenoon, on account of fog.

Ex. U.S. S/M P.551 arrived at the Clyde today.

It is reported that an enemy auxiliary cruiser of about 3000 tons passed Hellefiord (61° 36' N. 4° 58' E.) at 1330Z today northbound escorted by 3 patrol craft, 4 M.T.B's and aircraft. It is possible this may be an E boat depot ship.

Mining.

Tanker BRITISH CAPTAIN in Convoy F.S.61 was mined and sunk this morning in 52° 13' 10" N. 1° 54' 41" E. (east of Aldeburgh) S.S. EMPIRE CHIVALRY'S compasses were rendered useless by explosion close to the above position.

Owing to fog preventing minesweeping Avonmouth, Newport and Cardiff were closed this afternoon until 1100/3. Further mines were exploded in the Bristol Channel today.

North Atlantic.

CLYDE returned to Gibraltar at 1730 A and sailed at 2100 to relieve O 24 off Oran. CLYDE has on board the ex. First Officer of S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Orders were given today for BIRMINGHAM and DORSETSHIRE to patrol to intercept any German surface units which may be approaching from the Cape Horn area to recover survivors of the raider sunk yesterday by DORSETSHIRE. ASTER and MARGUERITE are to search for survivors' boats which may have a U/boat in company.

China.

Opnav reports that at 0230Z today naval aircraft sighted 9 submarines in 13° 10' N. 110° 0' E. course south.

Orders have been given that the withdrawal of British ships north of Hong Kong is to be expedited; ships over 4000 tons are to leave Hong Kong to the southward; and no ship is to leave Singapore to the north eastward without special permission, except to ports in Malaya or Borneo. No Dutch ship is allowed to sail northward of the N.E.I. without permission of the Dutch C.in C.

There are now no Japanese ships in the Atlantic or Indian Oceans. All outward sailings from Japan to the Americas have been cancelled except one evacuee ship. No Japanese ships are reported in N.E.I. or the Philippine Islands. Sailings of French vessels to and from French Indo China are reported suspended, probably until arrangements for escorts have been made. It is thought that the movements of vessels carrying special cargoes of rubber, which have sufficient cruising range to reach French West Africa without intermediate ports of call will probably continue. It is reported that S.S. PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) will load a large shipment of rubber at Saigon.

PRINCE OF WALES (Flag of C.in C. Eastern Fleet) arrived at Singapore today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U/Boat Campaign.

S.S. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA reported being chased by a submarine at 0616 today in 35° 20' N. 29° 58' W. (about 200 miles S.S.W. of Fayal, Azores). At 0623 she reported being gunned in 35° 14' N. 29° 52' W. At 0520 G.M.T. today a message was intercepted saying that she had been torpedoed in 35° 14' N. 29° 52' W.

Naval aircraft attacked 2 U/Boats near Cape Spartel this morning and one last night. A moonlight A/S search by Sunderlands was carried out last night, and 2 Catalinas with 4 destroyers carried out an A/S search east of Gibraltar.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Capt. D.19 is making a search of position 253° Cape Spartel 14, with 4 destroyers.

In a summary of A/S operations between 30/11 and 2/12, F.O.C.N.A. states that endless chain patrols in the Straits by 12 corvettes and destroyers have failed to establish contacts. 4 aircraft contacts were made and 3 led to attacks.

South Atlantic.

Orders were given today for BIRMINGHAM and DORSETSHIRE to patrol to intercept any German surface units which may be approaching from the Cape Horn area to recover survivors of the raider sunk yesterday by DORSETSHIRE. ASTER and MARGUERITE are to search for survivors' boats which may have a U-boat in company.

Mediterranean.

15th C.S. patrolled off Derna last night without encountering the enemy.

Libya and Western Desert.

In bad weather last night, with 7/10 cloud at 2000 feet. Wellingtons dropped over 17 tons of bombs on Benghazi Harbour, Derna town and landing ground, and other objectives. No shipping was seen in Benghazi or Derna, but 4 small ships were off the coast south of Benghazi.

Air operations were severely restricted by weather today, but 1 Maryland Squadron bombed Bardia.

The Union Govt. is to be asked, in view of activities in the Mediterranean, if they will agree to the 4 vessels of 22nd A/S Group remaining there.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Opnav reports that at 0230Z today naval aircraft sighted 9 submarines in 13° 10' N. 110° 0' E. course south.

Orders have been given that the withdrawal of British ships north of Hong Kong is to be expedited; ships over 4000 tons are to leave Hong Kong to the southward; and no ship is to leave Singapore to the north eastward without special permission, except to ports in Malaya or Borneo. No Dutch ship is allowed to sail northward of the N.E.I. without permission of the Dutch C. in C.

There are now no Japanese ships in the Atlantic or Indian Oceans. All outward sailings from Japan to the Americas have been cancelled except one evacuee ship. No Japanese ships are reported in N.E.I. or the Philippine Islands. Sailings of French vessels to and from French Indo China are reported suspended, probably until arrangements for escorts have been made. It is thought that the movements of vessels carrying special cargoes of rubber, which have sufficient cruising range to reach French West Africa without intermediate ports of call will probably continue. It is reported that S.S. PERSEE (ex PIERRE L.D.) will load a large shipment of rubber at Saigon.

PRINCE OF WALES (Flag of C. in C. Eastern Fleet) arrived at Singapore today.

America and West Indies.

Polish destroyer GARLAND arrived at Halifax today with heavy weather damage, her magazine flooded and A/S gear out of action.

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 2.12.1941
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CLEOPATRA Power Trials. Your 1959/30 and C. in C. H.F. 1917A/1. Trials may be carried out without surface escort, but fighter escort is essential, and trials are not to take place without it.
(V.C.N.S., 1644A/2 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

ROCKROSE for S.A.Command. My 1504A/25. For SNOWFLAKE read ROCKROSE.
(C. in C. W.A., 1744A/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

S/M's in Biscay Area. In order to give the greatest possible latitude to aircraft for night A/S operations, and subject to the provisions of paragraph E, it has been decided after consultation with C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. and H.Q.C.C.
A. Within 6 days each side of full moon submarines are to be kept clear of an area bounded on the south and east by the coasts of France and Spain, to the north by latitude 49° N. and to the west of line joining positions 49° N. 10° W., 46° N. 10° W., 46° N. 06° 30' W. and a point on the Spanish coast in longitude 06° 30' W.
B. At periods other than 6 days each side of full moon submarines may be routed through and/or patrol in the area referred to in para. A provided they always dive by day and submerged bombing restrictions only are asked for.
C. Submarines on passage may proceed on the surface at C.O's discretion when to the South of 46° north if routed to the west of 12° 30' W. between 43° N. and 46° N.
D. Submarines routed to the eastwards of limit referred to in para. C are to proceed submerged by day when to the north of 43° N.
E. Submarines may however be ordered to operate in any part of the Bay of Biscay at any time should the operational situation require it.
(F.O.S. 1911A/2.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Proposed diversion of A/C to Eastern Atlantic. Personal from First Sea Lord to C.N.O.
The protection of our shipping in the Western Approaches during the coming winter is causing us the greatest anxiety because our resources in long-range patrol aircraft are completely inadequate. We have sufficient short-range aircraft, which have proved the effectiveness of air escort as a deterrent to submarine attack and have driven the enemy to operate mainly beyond their range.

/For.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Proposed diversion of A/C to Eastern Atlantic. (Contd.)

For the zone 400 - 600 miles from our shores in which the enemy is likely to operate with greatly increasing force this winter, we require at least 108 initial equipment Catalinas or aircraft of equivalent range. We have at present only 37 Catalinas and the expected deliveries from U.S.A. and Canada to June 1942 will not suffice to replace wastage, let alone expand this force. We are thus compelled to leave convoys without air protection for 85% of their time of passage through this zone.
I would be most grateful if you would consider this problem from the broad viewpoint of the balance of strategical needs and decide whether it would be expedient to divert, at least temporarily, further long-range aircraft or units to the Eastern Atlantic for a purpose so vitally important to the common cause.
(1st S.L., 0356A/2 to Opnav.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Technical information required.

1. The following is a list of information which it is desired to obtain from the Russians. Request you will endeavour to obtain the answers to all or any of the questions as opportunity offers. Questions apply to Russian material unless otherwise stated. Details.
(A.C.N.S. W., 2046A/2.)

Movements.

P.511.

Following received from P.511. Begins. My position very uncertain possibly about 30 miles south of Barra Head, course and speed 200°, 6 knots. T.O.O. 1818A/1st. Ends. P.511 ordered to R/V with you as in my 1741A/1st this order was passed to her at 1905A/1st.
(Capt. S.3, 0405A/2 to CUTTY SARK.)
After reaching R/V and provided visibility permits carry remainder of search for P.511, returning to R/V every 2 hours at the even hour commencing search to south westward.
(Capt. S.3, 0820A/2 to CUTTY SARK.)
No transmissions have yet been heard from you on 500 kc/s or 375 kc/s. Transmit P.1's on 500 kc/s at 1030A and every hour afterwards for 3 minutes and P.2's on (? 375) kc/s at 1015A and every hour afterwards until you are located.
(Capt. S.3, 0822A/2 to P.511.)

/If P.511...

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.511. Contd.

If P.511 is not met before dark remain in the vicinity of Barra Island for night returning to R/V at dawn. Carry out search in neighbourhood of R/V commencing 1000A/3 and returning to R/V every 2 hours. (Capt. S.3., 1621A/2 to CUTTY SARK).
(a) Report your estimated P.C.S. (b) Make P ones on 500 kc/s for three minutes at 1830A and hourly thereafter until ordered to stop in order that D/F bearings may be obtained.
(c) Attention is called to H.D.3 35 dated 27/9/41 number 1145 and 1119 which might be of assistance to you. (Capt. S.3., 1623A/2 to P.511)
My 0937A/2. My position 020° Eilean Trodday Light 11 miles. Course as necessary to pass through the Minch speed 9 knots. If weather favourable may be able to make Clyde on fuel remaining. (P.511, 1845A/2 to Capt. S.3).
P.511 was approx: in 57° 36' N., 6° 45' W., at 2141A/2. Probably proceeding south unescorted and may be met during dark hours.
(C. in C. W.A., 2240A/2 to Escorts S.C.55).
R/V 0900A/3 in 240° Skerryvore 8 miles. Then proceeding Holy Loch, calling Londonderry for fuel if required. (Capt. S.3., 2359A/2 to P.511)

CLEOPATRA.

My 1010/30. Sailed escorted by WHITSHED and VANITY. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0920/2)
Arrived CLEOPATRA escorted by WHITSHED and VANITY. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1715/2).

MIMOSA.

MIMOSA sailed for St. John's N.F. with Admiral Muselier on board.
(A.C.I.C., 1023N/2).

B.P.T.33.

Subject to arrival of Tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL tomorrow propose she should proceed with B.P.T. 33 in tow for Scapa leaving Dockyard at 0800/5. Anticipated speed with tow will be approximately 5 knots. If tug arrives Thursday propose sailing be delayed till 0800 Saturday.
(S.T.O. Devonport, 1120/2).

MANXMAN, WELSHMAN.

When MANXMAN is ready request you will sail her to Scapa.
2. On MANXMAN's arrival please sail WELSHMAN to Port Z.A. to clean boilers. (A.C.N.S. H., 1156A/2 to R.A.M.)
Admiralty's 1156/2. Intend to sail MANXMAN for Scapa A.M./3. (R.A.M., 1507/2).

/TEMPEST....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

TEMPEST, PERIWINKLE. My 1654A/30 and 1709A/30. TEMPEST and PERIWINKLE sailing delayed 24 hours due to fog. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1203A/2).

RAMILLIES. RAMILLIES escorted by ESCAPADE and WHEATLAND arrived Clyde. WHEATLAND sailed for Scapa. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1226A/2).

FORTUNE. Sailed FORTUNE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 2229A/28. E.T.A. Gibraltar 2304A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1316A/2).

P.551. Arrivals DANEMAN and S/M P.551. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1316A/2).

P.38. When ready P.38 is to carry out 2 days A/S practices at Dartmouth and is then to proceed on second working up patrol in area between 49° and 50° N., and between 13° and 15° W., returning to Portsmouth about 21/12. (F.O.S. 1744A/2).

STURGEON, TRIDENT, SEAWOLF, SEALION. It is intended to sail STURGEON early in January and TRIDENT shortly afterwards to relieve SEAWOLF and SEALION in Northern Waters. S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to sail SEAWOLF and SEALION to Holy Loch for onward passage to Portsmouth about mid January. (F.O.S., 1759A/2).

NELSON. NELSON docked in No. 3 dock 2/12. (A.S. Rosyth, 1820/2).

SOUTHERN PRINCE. When ready for sea SOUTHERN PRINCE should be sailed for Port Z.A.
2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange the necessary escort. (D.O.D. H., 1840A/2).

Operations.

Middel Diep Patrol. Arrivals M.T.B.s. 30, 32, 34. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1021A/2).

Kwinte Bank Patrol. Arrivals M.T.Bs. 18, 71, 100. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0951A/2).

/M.T.B....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

M.T.B. engagement with E-boats. M.T.B.71 damaged. M.T.B.100 damaged.

At 2300/1 M.T.Bs. 18, 100, 71 on patrol close to Kwinte Bank Buoy sighted 6 E-boats on N.E'ly course, speed about 20 knots. Brief action at 200 to 300 yards ensued while M.T.Bs. disengaged to N.W. hits were observed on Enemy but no noticeable effect from incendiary .303" ammunition fired by M.T.B.18. Enemy replied with cannon guns hitting M.T.B.71 in petrol compartment and 100 in engine room both causing fires which were extinquished quickly. No casualties reported.
M.G.Bs. 64 and 63 on patrol to Northward endeavoured to intercept but failed to make contact.
M.T.B.s. 34, 30 and 32 on patrol at S.W. end of Middel Diep saw nothing. From this it is possible that the Enemy made for Zeebrugge or Flushing. (C. in C. Nore, 1440A/2).

SEALION Patrol.

SEALION sailed for patrol off Tana Fiord between Meridian 027° 30' E., and 028° 50' E. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1441C/2).

H.F. Destroyer Exercise.

My 1236N/2. Home Fleet destroyers have cancelled exercise owing to (?weather). (A.C.I.C., 1801A/2).

UNA Patrol.

F.O.S. 1322A/24. Para 2. Sail UNA accordingly to patrol in Biscay West Zone routed to comply with F.O.S. 1911A/2. (F.O.S., 1912A/2).

Operation "Familiar".

TUNA reports operation "Familiar" carried out on 16 and 17 November 12 miles off Rost and from Traenen for 25 miles on course 41° with negative result. (F.O.S., 2321A/2).

CORMARSH (sunk 29/11).

Is now known to have been sunk by a torpedo and not by a mine. (D.S.819).

Enemy Air Activity.

ROSS (damaged 1/12).

My 2004/1. 250 Kilo bomb passed through fore peak, cutting both anchor cables, then out starboard side without exploding. No other damage and no casualties. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1108/2).

/ST.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

ST. LEONARD attacked on 1/12. (Fishing Trawler) Attacked by Enemy A/C at 1320/1 in position 20 to 25 miles N1/2W from Rona's Voe. Two near misses, one within 10 feet of port quarter filling after cabin. Skipper, doubtful of engine room bulkhead, abandoned ship 15 to 17 miles N. by W. from Rona's Voe at 1600/1. Skipper and crew of 9 uninjured brought to Scalloway in Trawler BRACONBUSH. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1258/2).

SMIRIL. 1 enemy aircraft attacked Faeroes S.S. SMIRIL 3000 tons off Skaaleyig Sando at 1240 today. 4 bombs were dropped and machine-gun fire. 1 military casualty, slight damage. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 1621A/2).

Nolso Lighthouse My Q1621A/2. At 1320 today enemy A/C attacked Nolso Lighthouse. No casualties reported, but considerable damage. Kabelen and Borin Light, Fog signal, and radiobeacon cannot operate. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 2021A/2).

VESTLAND (Norwegian, 1934 tons). Attacked in Convoy M.H.48 at 1900/1 about 28 miles S.W. by S. of Bardsey Island. Steering gear damaged. No casualties. (D.S.819).

B.B.7. attacked. 3 attacks by 2 Aircraft between 2000 and 2040. No Bombs dropped. No damage. (POZARICA, 2042A/2).

Mining.

Convoy F.S.61 BRITISH CAPTAIN, (British Tanker, 6968 tons) sunk. Departure tug LADY BRASSEY to assistance Tanker (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0847/2).
Departure Tug SUPERMAN to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0852A/2).
BRITISH CAPTAIN in F.S.61 mined near 54C buoy at about 0730/2, sank at about 0900/2 in 52° 13' 10" N., 01° 54' 41" E. KITTIWAKE taking 52 survivors to Harwich. One seriously wounded in WOLSEY, one missing.
(C. in C. Nore, 1025/A/2) Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1300A/2).

/Yarmouth....

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Yarmouth. One acoustic mine exploded at 0710A/2 in 52° 15' 40" N., 1° 57' 40" E. Details.(F.O.I.C. Gt. (Yarmouth, 1427A/2).

St. Georges Channel. Vessel KIRSTEN MAERSK reports A/C dropping mines, two by parachute. Position 52° 11' N., 5° 16' W. at 1930A/1. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1454A/2).

Sweep of Faeroes passage. Area swept since recommencing operation on 30/11. Details. Mines cut 14. (S.O. 4th M/S. F. 1510A/2).

Bristol Channel. Exploded two red magnetic mines off Mumbles Light House. First at 0952A/2. Second at 0959A /2. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1520A/2). Owing to fog preventing minesweeping, ports of Avonmouth and Newport and Cardiff are closed until 1100/3. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1602A/2).

N.P.18A. Intend to carry out operation N.P.18A tonight. (V.A. Dover, 1609A/2). My 1609/2. N.P.18 cancelled owing to fog. (V.A. Dover, 2257A/2).

Thames Estuary. 2 magnetic mines detonated at 0610/2 and 1026/2 respectively. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1646/2).

EMPIRE CHIVALRY, damaged. EMPIRE CHIVALRY's compasses rendered useless by mine explosion in 052° 14' N., 001° 56' 30" E. and making water slowly. Have ordered TURQUOISE to lead her into Harwich. (WOOLSTON, 1745/2).

Enemy Intelligence.

Invasion Exercises. My Telegram No. 1251 November 20th. Invasion exercises were carried out at Stettin with about 6 lighters of same type on 20/11 and again on 22/11. Large lighters of similar type were exercising at Gdynia same date. No particular significance is attached to this.
2. The landing craft reported in my R.S.648 of 22/11 had recently returned from landing operations at Osel. Graded B.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1541/2).
N.I.D. Comment. Reports have already been received and promulgated that invasion exercises are continually being carried out in the Baltic. The German attack on Osel Island took place at the end of September.

/Cruiser....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Cruiser. Reported that auxiliary cruiser of about 3,000 tons passed HELLEFIORD (61° 36' N., 04° 58' E) at 1330Z/2 Northbound escorted by 3 patrol craft, 4 M.T.Bs. and aircraft. It is possible this may be an "E" Boat depot ship.
(D.D.I.C., 1627A/2).

Navigational.

Yarmouth. Port closed due to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0911A/2).
Port now open.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0952A/2).

Wreck Buoy off Cromer. Commodore of F.N.66 reports wreck buoy in 52.55. 06 N., 01.31.00 E., light extinguished.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1130/2).

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 2021A/2)

Miscellaneous.

Burning Oil on Water. At 1425 today a fire started on the surface of the water alongside VERDUN. This fire soon became a fierce blaze and spread rapidly, apparently due to fuel oil on the water, to "P" Jetty and the floating dock containing LEEDS. The fire was promptly tackled, was under control by 1450 and out by 1500. Little, if any, damage has been caused to any ship or the dockyard. This is due to the expeditious manner with which the fire parties and tugs tackled the fire. An enquiry is being held as to the cause of the fire.
(C. in C. Rosyth, No. T.O.O. Recd. 2001/2).

Casualties & Defects.

ROXBOROUGH. Your 1229/30/11. Request both sets of sided torpedo tubes be removed from ROXBURGH before sailing. All work of preparation for installation of centre line torpedo tubes will be undertaken in U.S.A. and tubes will be put in place on return of ship to U.K.
(D. of D. Bath, 0522A/2 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

/R.J....

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Cont'd.

R.J.CULLEN. Propeller gone. Position is 058° 06' N., 030° 30' W., at 1000.
(Portishead Radio, 1545G.M.T./2).

WELWYN. (Torpedo recovery wooden steam drifter) Was in collision with BRIGADIER approx. 2 miles N.E. of Fidra at 1515 today. WELWYN was able to proceed to Anstruther but reports considerable damage to port side, and skipper does not consider vessel seaworthy. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1734/2).

VAILLANT. Your 1045/29/11. Work on VAILLANT should be given same priority as merchant ship repairs. (S. of C., 1759A/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping & Convoys.

F.S. No. 62. Anchored in fog between 19C and 20 Buoy. (QUANTOCK, 0235A/2).

H.X. 161. Not met. Am hove to in position 058° 30' N., 023° 05' W., 140°, 5 knots. VETERAN and LEAMINGTON in company.
(DOUGLAS, 1000N/2).

F.N.67. My 1755/1. No ships sailed from Humber owing to Port being closed. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1107A/2).
Am anchoring with F.N. No. 67 2 miles South East of 62F buoy. (LIDDESDALE, 1204A/2).
F.N. No. 67 proceeding. (LIDDESDALE, 1431A/2).

Routes of Ships for Poole. For N.C.S.O's. (i) Ships routed for Poole from West are to leave Q.Z.S. 293 in position:-
(a) 50° 33' 24" N., 01° 51' 30" W., and proceed to position
(b) 50° 38' 54" N., 01° 51' 30 " W., and thence by the Poole Searched Channel to the Poole Bar Buoy in position 50° 39' 24" N., 01° 55' 11" W.
(2) Ships routed to Poole from the Needles are to proceed from N.2 Buoy in Q.Z.S. 284 (50° 36' 48" N., 01° 41' 00" W) to position (b) above.
(D.T.D., 1220A/2 and 2336A/2).

O.N.41. O.N.41 Inform Commdre. and ship named that destination of EMPIRE LIGHTNING is changed to St. John, N.B. (C. in C. W.A., 1254/2 to VANOC-)

W.S.14. Orders for Escorts. (C. in C. W.A., 1518A/2, 1519A/2, and 0215A/3) See Lion Copy.

/B.B....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

B.B.7. Owing to possible enemy minelaying convoy keep clear to starboard of position 052° 24' N., 005° 13' W. (C. in C. W.A., 1523A/2).

S.C.55. SYLVIA DE LARRINGA has broken degaussing Coil. Request any change in destination. (FOXHOUND, 1545Z/2).

MALANCHA. Admiralty's 1810A/30.
(1) for SNOWFLAKE read ROCKROSE.
(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is to sail JASMINE to arrive Londonderry dawn 6th and Fuel.
(3) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail ROCKROSE. S.O. and JASMINE to R/V with MALANCHA as arranged by N.C.S.O. Clyde.
(4) ROCKROSE and JASMINE are to escort MALANCHA speed 13½ knots to Freetown by route which is being signalled.
(5) If corvettes require to fuel at Ponta Delgada, ROCKROSE is to report on reaching latitude 46° N., stating minimum fuel required by each corvette and expected time of arrival.
(6) ROCKROSE and JASMINE are to come under orders of C. in C. S.A. on arrival at station. (C. in C. W.A., 1601A/2).

P.Q.6. Following ships arrived to date. DEKABRIST draft when fully bunkered 28 feet, ELONA draft 26 feet. EMPIRE MAVIS draft 21 feet, IERNE, MOUNT EVANS having lost four packing cases overboard, others damaged. Fuelling and watering of ships is being considerably delayed owing to continuous heavy gales. (A.C.I.C., 1741N/2-).

W.P.74 S. MARIE. MARIE departed from W.P. 74 S. of Poole Bay but has not arrived. Possibly anchored awaiting tide. (N.O.I.C. Poole, 1801/2).

H.X.160. Met as arranged average speed 7.91 knots. Extremely bad weather throughout voyage. One straggler all ships now arrived except MOUNT RHODOPE which joined S.C.55. (D.T.D., 1825Z/2, to Opnav).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.12.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. Intelligence. (D.D.I.C., 1925A/2 to Cs. in C. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Service Personnel. Maximum numbers to be embarked in any one A.M.C. (4th S.L. 2220A/2 to Cs. in C. etc.) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

French Shipping. Passing Gibraltar 0830/2 westbound. (D.O.R. 4/12.)

North Atlantic.

SCOTTISH. Arrival SCOTTISH. (V.A.C.N.A. 0636A/2 to Admty.) (Reported leaking boiler tube 1/12.)

CLYDE. Return to Gibraltar direct forthwith at best speed. (F.O.C.N.A. 0940A/2 to CLYDE.)
Your 0940A/2 understood. My P.C. and S. at 1100A are 036° 10' N. 003° 12' W. 268° 16 knots (weather report).
(CLYDE 1003/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Have recalled CLYDE and intend sailing her again at 2100/2 to relieve 024. CLYDE will take ex first officer of SERAFIN TOPIC on patrol.
2. On relief by CLYDE intend 024 to proceed to patrol off Naples in area 040° 00' N. 013° 00' E.- 80 - 110.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1510A/2 to Admty.)
My 1510A/2. CLYDE arrived 1730A sailed 2100A/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2116A/2 to Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)

CYCLAMEN. LONDONDERRY. CYCLAMEN, LONDONDERRY left Ponta Delgada 0015 and 1100 G.M.T./2 respectively.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1002/2 to S.O.I. Gib.)

D.19 search. Am carrying out thorough search of position 253° Cape Spartel 14 with 4 destroyers and will persist. (Capt. D.19, 1011A/2 to F.O.C.N.A. rep. S.O. Force H.)
New R/V 270° Spartel 5 at 1800.
(Capt. D.19 1358A/2 to LEGION.)

/SERAFIN TOPIC ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

SERAFIN TOPIC 0.24.

SERAFIN TOPIC remains your object. She is to be sunk even if in convoy, the risk of hitting other ships is accepted.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/2 to 0.24.)
Carry out phase 2 leaving patrol off Oran at 0001/4 and proceed through (d) 036° 50' 001° 00' E. (e) 037° 20' 004° 00'. (f) 037° 36' 007° 00'. (g) 038° 10' 009° 00' thence direct to patrol area. Proceed on surface by day when west of 007° E. passing through (f) at 0700A/5. W.M.P.12, cancel paras. 11 and 12. CLYDE relieves you off Oran, will not pass east of 000° 40' before 0001/4. Capt.(S) 10 pass to OLYMPUS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1408A/2 to 0.24 rep. OLYMPUS, CLYDE, S.O. Force H. etc.)

JAY.

Repairing steering gear damaged in heavy weather expected sailing 7/12. Portuguese Authorities have granted extension of time.
(R.O. Horta, 1305/2 to Admty.)

HURWORTH
RANGITATA.

Intend docking HURWORTH to change propeller and make good defects. Time required 3 days. Sailing RANGITATA with VIDETTE and HURWORTH probably on 5/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1314A/2 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A.)

MARSDALE.

MARSDALE patrol F.X.2. Situation 2007A/2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1426A/2 to A.I.G.65.)

OLYMPUS.

Your 1119B/2. Onward route for OLYMPUS (r) 039° 00' 007° 00' E. (s) 038° 35' 002° 00' E. (t) 036° 20' 002° 15' W. Adjust speed to cross 000° 00' at 0400/9 and arrive at Gibraltar 0900. OLYMPUS to report on crossing 002° 00' E. if unable to comply within one hour of above time. Capt.(S).10 pass to OLYMPUS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1506A/2 to N.O.I.C. Malta, rep. S.10, Force H. etc.)

ZULU.

Excessive vibration developed at 1415 in starboard shaft indicating propeller or "A" bracket trouble. No defect has been located in - board. Vibration is so excessive that Port shaft can only be used. Maximum speed at present 16 knots. My position is 42° 57' N. 14° 44' W. SIKLA in company.
(ZULU, 1530A/2, to S.O. Force H., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., Capt. D.19.)

/ZULU ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

ZULU contd. ZULU 1530/2. Request ZULU be docked on arrival. (S.O. Force H. 2132A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Fuel, Funchal. Your 1949/1. I have been assured by Captain of the Port that any reasonable requirements for bunkering British and Allied ships will be met, e.g., should a convoy arrive requiring 2,000 - 3,000 tons of coal this would be supplied should stocks be available. On this understanding arrangement would be more advantageous to British Govt. than by having a formal undertaking to maintain a reserve of 1,000 tons thereby possibly limiting supply to this amount.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1630/2 to N.A. Lisbon.)

CLAN MACINNES. Assumed that on arrival of CLAN MACINNES with 2 M.L.C. referred to in C. in C. S.A. 1403/23/11 and 1321/28/11 the proposed unloading trial will be carried out. 2. Request you will state in due course name of small cargo vessel you propose to use for this purpose and period for which she will be required.
(D. of S.T. 1851A/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S Operations. 30/11 - 2/12.
(i) At 2130/30 Swordfish attacked S/M on surface 245° Spartel 14. Two depth charges exploded very close to S/M which heeled over and disappeared. Oil was still appearing when A/C left vicinity 2½ hours later. Original contact obtained by A.S.V, attack carried out from 30 feet.
(ii) At 2122A/1 Swordfish reported A.S.V. contact in 300° Spartel 9. Contact faded, nothing sighted.
(iii) At 2155/1 Swordfish reported A.S.V. contact in 270° Spartel 10. S/M subsequently attacked from 30 feet, both depth charges exploding, one close to stern. S/M pitched violently and appeared to stop suddenly, S/M then submerged. No oil sighted.
(iv) At 0405A/2 air striking force sighted S/M in 340°Spartel 13 on surface. Attack from 50 feet was carried out as stern was disappearing. Both charges exploded close to the submarine. Nothing further seen.
(v) At 0550A/2 surface attack was made in 336° Spartel 10. Contact reported undoubtedly S/M. No apparent result.
(vi) At 0755 Swordfish attacked S/M which submerged in 253° Spartel 14. Depth charges dropped from 250 feet failed to explode. Destroyers subsequently swept area without result.
(vii) Endless chain patrols in Straits by 12 corvettes and destroyers have failed to establish contacts.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2248A/2 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

OMAHA, SOMERS. — Left San Juan 1/12, E.T.A. Pernambuco 11/12. (D.O.D.(F) 0035A/2 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

ALCANTARA. — Leave patrol in J.33 and proceed to Trinidad. (C. in C. S.A. 0121N/2 to ALCANTARA.)

DORSETSHIRE. — Report P.C. and S. and percentage of fuel remaining. (C. in C. S.A. 0859N/2 to DORSETSHIRE.)

ACCRA. — Ref. A.M. 1202A/28, apart from question of ability of ACCRA to deliver approx. 10,000 tons of Cocoa in 4 days, M.W.T.R. points out certain delay at Lagos while marshalling ship and raises the question of ship with cargo for ACCRA. (R.N.O. Lagos, 0916Z/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

MEMPHIS, DAVIS. — Depart Pernambuco 3/12 for patrol to 15° N. 26° W., returning Pernambuco 13/12. (D.O.D.(F) 1206A/2 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

Proposed Search for Enemy Ships. — Your 1809N/1. (A) Very glad to receive your suggestion. (B) We have carefully considered whole question and do not believe there is another supply ship in South Atlantic at present. (C) Most probable action for Germans to take is to divert a blockade runner to pick up these crews. No information about any of these at the moment, but most likely lines of approach are from direction of Cape Horn or down from Central Atlantic. (D) Suggest therefore that a search to S.W. of boats' area, keeping well clear of the submarines, would be worth while a limited time. (E) Please do as you wish about DERBYSHIRE, but we would prefer you to send MARGUERITE and ASTER down to Cape Focal area as soon as practicable, as undoubtedly one or two of the submarines have already been refuelled. (1st S.L., 1242A/2 to C. in C. S.A.

DORSETSHIRE. — Steer 270° S. of A. 17 knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1427N/2 to DORSETSHIRE.)

/Liaison ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Liaison with U.S.N.

Request the position as regards direct communication with U.S. Naval Authorities and forces at sea may be clarified. In particular (A) What authorities are entitled to address signals to Opnav please? Your 2017/20/11 refers. (B) Are paras 24, 25 and 26 of SP 02376 in force? Should I have communicated DORSETSHIRE's 1746/1 direct to Opnav, escorts of W.S.12 X and/or Commandant 15th Naval District, Balboa? (C) Who is Spenavo please? Your 2341/1 and 0144/2 refers.
(2) Ref. minutes of 26th meeting Trade Protection Committee para 26, request clarification of first sentence since if this is read literally direct communication is not permissible. Presume remark refers to requests for action to be taken and not to passing operational information.
(C. in C. S.A. 1455N/2 to Admty.)

WARTENFELS (?) German.

German ship probably WARTENFELS reported to have left Madagascar date and destination unknown.
(C. in C. S.A. 1541N/2 to S.A. Stn.)

CUMBRAE, HOXA, ROMEO.

Intend H.M. ships CUMBRAE (S.O.) HOXA and ROMEO to sail for Nairobi in company p.m./3. S. of A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Kilindini a.m./11. Routed as in my 1400Z/19/5.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1543Z/2 to C. in C. E.I. etc.)

W.S.12 X.

Following is portion of signal T.O.O. 0851/29/11 from Opnav to Admiralty. (Begins) "6 American Transports escorted by QUINCY, VINCENNES, and 6 destroyers proceeding along prescribed track at 14 knots. Estimate arrive Capetown 10/12. Oiler CIMARRON in company." (Ends)
(D.O.D.(F) 1629A/2 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

STANLEY CLAN MACINNES.

STANLEY's steaming limited to 4½ days due to abnormal water consumption. Have ordered her to proceed to Bathurst to locate defects and to complete with water. CLAN MACINNES remaining with S.L.94 pending further instructions re onward routeing should STANLEY be unable to rejoin by p.m./5. (?Passed to) STANLEY.
(VANSITTART, 1802Z/2 to C. in C. S.A.)

/ASTER ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

ASTER
MARGUERITE
DORSETSHIRE
BIRMINGHAM
ECHODALE.

ASTER and MARGUERITE are to fuel from ECHODALE on 4/12.
(2) (Corrupt group) and Corvettes are to be in position (E) 018° 00' S. 013° 00' W. at 0800Z/5 or as soon after as possible and are to approach this position on a course 176°.
(3) DORSETSHIRE is to pass through 030° 00' S. 008° 00' W. and then to R/V with ECHODALE at 0800/5 and complete with fuel. (4) ASTER and MARGUERITE are to be detached p.m./5 so as to arrive at vicinity of position F. 027° 55' S. 003° 55' W. by 1000Z/8 to search for survivor boats which may leave a U-boat in company.
(5) R.A.S.A.D. in BIRMINGHAM is requested to patrol an area about 350 miles to S.W. of F. until necessary to leave for R/V with DORSETSHIRE. (6) DORSETSHIRE is to R/V with R.A.S.A.D. at 1200Z/7 in 025° 30' S. 010° 00' W.
(7) Unless available intelligence makes it undesirable BIRMINGHAM and DORSETSHIRE should close to within flying distance of position F. early a.m./8 and search that vicinity with aircraft to assist Corvettes. (8) BIRMINGHAM should then fuel from ECHODALE, DORSETSHIRE continuing patrol of area referred to in para (5). Object of this patrol is to intercept any German surface units which may be approaching from Cape Horn area to recover survivors. (9) ECHODALE may be retained if necessary for one further fuelling and then ordered to Freetown. (10) Foregoing instructions should obviate necessity of ships to break W/T silence.
(C. in C. S.A. 1829N/2 to R.A.S.A.D. and ships named.)
My 1829/2. It may be expected that U-Boats will be in the vicinity of any boats sighted. Destruction of these is your first objective. Subsequently the following action should be taken.
(A) Power boat and boats loaded with fuel and supplies should be sunk, having first removed occupants.
(B) A reasonable number of prisoners should be taken from remaining boats but ships should not be overcrowded.
(C) Operation of picking up prisoners should be carried out by one corvette at a time with others screening.
(D) British merchant seamen prisoners may be among survivors. Survivors rescued should be cross questioned on this point.
(C. in C. S.A. 2145N/2 to ASTER, MARGUERITE.)

CHALLENGER. Ref. Hydrographer letter H.02051/41, 20/6, anticipate ready to leave Bathurst 1/1. Request port of destination in U.K. Request mail may be diverted to U.K. after 4/12.
(CHALLENGER, 1858N/2 to Admty.)

/22 A/S ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

22 A/S Group. — Your 1937B/24. In view of activities in the Mediterranean it is important to retain the four vessels of 22nd A/S group lent by Union Govt. This efficient group is rendering very valuable service and Their Lordships fully endorse C. in C., Med's 1744B of 26/11. Request you will approach Union Govt. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2026A/2 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

KAJAK (Esthonian) — My 1441Z/30. Am now informed KAJAK will load for Vladivostock. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2131Z/2 to Admty.)

COMMANDANT DOMINE. — 1. Request B.N.L.O. may be appointed to COMMANDANT DOMINE. At present I can only communicate with British authorities in M.N. Code.
2. Expect to dock 5/12 at Simonstown.
(COMMANDANT DOMINE, 1200B/2 to Adm. Comdg. F.N.F.L.)

Mediterranean.

LUISE BORNHOFEN. (German) — Intercepted message 27/11 states Portuguese Ministry of Marine has given orders for this ship at Horta to be supplied with coal necessary to manoeuvre in an emergency. (D.S. 819, 2/12.)

MARIA DI GIOVANNI. (schooner) — Ran aground in enemy territory 10 miles W. of Tobruk on 23/11. C.O. and crew reported from Rome to have been taken prisoners. (D.O.R. 2/12.)

Force K. — Arrivals 2/12. AURORA, PENELOPE, LIVELY. (V.A. Malta, 0810B/2 to Admty.)

HEYTHROP, AVON VALE. — Join (corrupt group) in 32.21 N., 25.10 E. at 0930B/2. (V.A. Malta, 0948/2 to HEYTHROP, AVON VALE.)

Enemy Units. — P.C. and S. of enemy, 6 M/Vs, 2 Destroyers, 3 (E.A), 35.15 N., 11.50 E., 170°, 12. (A/C G., 1020/2 to Hal Far.)
P.C. and S. of enemy, 6 M/Vs 5,000 tons, 2

/destroyers ...

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units - contd.

destroyers, (Position as 1020/2). One Junkers 3 Macchi escort.
(A/C call sign 9 F.T.G. 1021/2 to Hal Far.)

URGE.

Leaves Malta p.m./2nd for Area E, 037° 00', 015° 21' - 350° - 057° - 20.
(Capt. S.10, 1023B/2 to UNIQUE, P.34; 1025B/2 to Capt. S.1.) (Cancelled 1823/2.)

AJAX.

Intend docking AJAX 5/12 for bottom clean.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1044B/2 to C. in C. Med.)

OLYMPUS.

Leaves Malta p.m./3rd passing 038° 15' 009° 00' about 1900B/5 with same orders as in my 1051B/30.
(V.A. Malta, 1119B/2 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Destroyers.

2 enemy destroyers 034° 05' 022° 03' course 000° 15 knots at 1015B.
(Capt. S. 1, 1141B/2 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Benghazi bombed.

Night 30/11 - 1/12, weather good. Wellingtons dropped over 20 O.S. bombs on Benghazi Harbour starting large fires on base of Cathedral Mole railway sidings and among nearby buildings, other bombs burst on Central Mole and caused explosions on Liana Point. 1 bomb fell either on or very near ship in harbour. A 4-engined aircraft was destroyed on Barce Aerodrome. Benghazi - Tolmeita and Barce - Derna Roads also bombed and machine gunned.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1159/2.)

ADRIATICO
IRIDIO
MANTOVANI
ALVISE DA
MOSTO
sunk by Force K. 1/12.

Following preliminary report from S.O. Force K. At 2330/30 Force K. was detached by C.S.7 to intercept M/V reported by A.S.V. Wellington. Wellington homed Force K. on to target which was sunk at 0330/1 in 032° 52' N. 020° (? 35') E. Ship was ADRIATICO.
2. Officers and 19 ratings including Army person picked up. At 0940/1 received aircraft report of one destroyer and one tanker off Kerkenah Bank. Intercepted and found tanker damaged but proceeding S.E. Sank tanker and destroyer (MONTIVANI (sic) and ALUISE DA MOSTO) in 33° 45' N. 12° 30' E. at 1815/1. Destroyer blew up after gallant action, no survivors. Picked up 3 Officers and 21 ratings from tanker, including Army personnel. (W.D. Note.- See also H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1840/2.)

/3 ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ADRIATICO
IRIDIO
MANTOVANI
ALVISE DA
MOSTO
sunk by
Force K.
1/12. contd.

3. Cargo of ADRIATICO believed to be artillery stores and ammunition. Cargo MANTOVANI was 3,000 tons Benzine, 3000 tons Petrol gas oil and remainder Naptha.
4. No damage or casualties to Force K.

P.31 attack on enemy convoy.

5. P.31 reports in 039° 20' N. 017° 33' E. at 1720B/29 fired at 2nd ship in line of 3 cruisers. 3 explosions at correct time interval, followed 3 minutes later by a very heavy explosion. All hydrophenic effect from target then ceased. After this enemy cruiser force was delayed several hours which suggests cruiser may have been sunk and a relief cruiser brought from Taranto. Consider that had ship hit been a destroyer she would have blown up immediately.
(V.A. Malta, 1143B/2 to Admty.)

YARRA
FLAMINGO
HEYTHROP
AVON VALE.

Unless otherwise ordered by N.O.I.C. Tobruk. On arrival of "Local" off Tobruk entrance YARRA, FLAMINGO, HEYTHROP, AVON VALE return to Alexandria through Z, R, B, A, detaching HEYTHROP and AVON VALE to proceed independently.
(Alexandria C.C.O., 1251B/2 to YARRA.)

SULLBERG
(German)

Arrival 1st.
(Valencia 1300/2 to M. of W.T.)

LISBOA
(German)
GRETE
(Danish)

Arrival 2nd LISBOA. Complete loading oranges expected sailing tonight for Marseilles.
Departure 1st GRETE for Marseilles with oranges. Flying Danish colours Master and Officers Danish and German, crew Spanish.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 1300/2 to M. of W.T.

Russian Ships from Black Sea.

Message 1636/25/11 from Adm. Miles. I am arranging to send up Lieut. Cdr. Seligman R.N.R. to assist. This will give you Oliphant, Harkness, and Seligman which should ensure no ship sailing without a British Officer. Admty. pass to N.A. Ankara.
(C. in C. Med., 1325B/2 to N.A. Ankara.)
Adm. Miles 1636/25/11. I am doing everything possible to provide officers so that there will be one in each of the Russian ships but suitable people are very difficult to provide. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles.
(C. in C. Med., 1331B/2 to Adm. Miles.)

/Your 1621D/25 ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Russian Ships from Black Sea contd.

Your 1621D/25 para.(3). Only available British Officer sailed in MIKOYAN. Reliable pilots with recent previous successful experience of exactly similar operation in British ships will sail in 3 tankers.
(2) Admty. pass Adm. Miles.
(A.N.A. Istanbul, 1502B/2 to Adm. Miles.)
1. Russian Commercial Attache has received instructions from (?group omitted) Minister of Commerce that portion of oil cargoes of tankers to be discharged Turkey, balance to be taken south.
2. Russian N.A. has telegraphed C.N.S. that in his opinion operation will be made more hazardous if ships carry cargoes, particularly aviation petrol, and has recommended all oil be discharged here. I agree as safety of ships is first consideration and request if possible you put forward similar views.
3. Apart from above Turks think all oil in present three tankers is for them and would be upset if some is now reloaded. This might lead to less assistance from them. I would emphasize that Turkish authorities are being most helpful in assisting arrangements for passage of ships south.
4. Admiralty pass to Adm. Miles.
(A.N.A. Istanbul, 1718B/2 to Adm. Miles.)

U/B.

Turkish Naval Reports sighting German Submarine, 30/11, no time given, position 39° 22' N. 25° 48' E. approx.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 1329B/2 to S.O.I. Med., S.1.)

Turkish Port Defences.

Please pass following to N.A. Ankara (for Adm. Kelly) Your 1243/27. I fully agree that matters are in a muddled state. I am sending you by letter a complete review of situation as regards defence of South Anatolian ports. Plans of Alexandretta defence have been delayed, as I am not in agreement with initial Admiralty proposals and am awaiting a reply to points I have raised. T.O.O.1335B/2. (Ends)
(C. in C. Med., 1337B/2 to Admty.)

D.7. Search

My 1555B/1. Cancel patrol off Derna. Carry out A/S search on shipping route Rasel Mehl-Tobruk during the night 2nd/3rd and continue North search eastwards to longitude Mersa Matruh during daylight/3.
You may be required to patrol off Derna night 3/4th.
(C. in C. Med., 1604B/2 to Capt. D.7.)

/Greeks ...

MOST SECRET.

S/Ms for Turkey.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Greeks and HUNT Destroyers. Admty. 1737/6/11. Greeks are asking to visit HUNT class out here to gain experience. Will ships turned over to Greeks be fitted complete as are those in our own service? If so, are there any restrictions on showing all fittings including R D/F to Greek Officers concerned? (C. in C. Med., 1604B/2 to Admty.)

Need for A/S Vessels. Shortage of small A/S vessels here continues to be acute. Understood there are in South Africa 8 or 10 trained A/S Whalers manned by Seaward Defence Force. Request I may approach Director Seaward Defences direct with a view to obtaining a group to work in Mediterranean in addition to those already here. They could return very quickly if required but in meantime would be invaluable here.
(C. in C. Med., 1630B/2 to Admty.)

Libya. Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1659/2 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

CLAN CAMPBELL CLAM LAMONT. CLAN CAMPBELL, CLAN LAMONT escort SALVIA sailed 1730/2, E.T.A. Port Said 0700/3.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1736B/2 to N.O.I.Cs Port Said, Syrian Ports.)

URGE. Cancel my 1025B/2. URGE sustained fuel leak.
(Capt. S. 10, 1823B/2 to Capt. S.1.)

S/Ms for Turkey. Object of passage of submarines ORUC REIS and MURAT REIS to Turkey is their safe and timely arrival at their destination. 2. Enemy warships may be attacked if encountered but not other enemy units nor convoys. These are, however, to be reported if practicable. 3. ORUC REIS is expected to leave U.K. about mid-December and MURAT REIS later.
(Head of M. 1823A/2 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, F.O.C.N.A. etc.)

Air attack on M.V IRIDIO MANTOVANI 1/12. 4 Blenheims attacked bombs and machine guns 1 10,000 Tanker escorted 1 D/R 4 Cant 501s, see my I.266, 1450 hours, 004° Zuara 72 miles. Ship down by stern almost awash and front end high out of water, ship stationary, as attack went a few crew jumped overboard but majority were in boats 500 yards away having abandoned ship. After first attack 8 500 lb S.A.P. bombs dropped mast height, 1 hit amidships, 2 near misses. Tanker left badly damaged, subsequently sunk by Navy. Prisoners state

/ship ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air attack on IRIDIO MANTOVANI 1/12 contd.

ship was making water fast and sinking and was stopped as result Air Action, excellent pictures being sent to Air Ministry.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1840/2.)
(W.D. Note.- Presumably MONTIVANI, see V.A. Malta 1143B/2.)

THUNDERBOLT TRIUMPH.

THUNDERBOLT is to leave patrol p.m./4 and return to Alexandria through following positions- 036° 24' 020° 28', 034° 32' 022° 54', 035° 44' 026° 18' - adjusting speed to pass through second position about 1800B/5 and arriving in sanctuary at ?(06)00B/8. TRIUMPH is to take over patrol in area Q.1 in addition to area Q from 0001B/5.
(Capt. S.1, 1905B/2 to S/Ms named.)

JACKAL damaged.

JACKAL hit in steering compartments by aircraft torpedo at 1300/1 in 032° 15' N. 024° 41' E. has now arrived Alexandria under own power. Propellers and shafts appear undamaged but after compartments flooded and steering gear out of action. No casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 1906B/2 to Admty.)

MIKOYAN.

Have you any news of U.S.S.R Icebreaker MIKOYAN which is reported as having passed from Istanbul to Aegean Sea on 28/11? 2. This ship is urgently required at Archangel, request details of her speed and endurance.
(D.T.D. 1926A/2 to S.B.N.O. Suez.)

UPHOLDER.

Torpedoes expended. E.T.A. 1701B/3. My P.C. and S. 037° 15' 016° 28' 215° 9.
(UPHOLDER 2001B/2 to V.A. Malta.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Motor Boats. Your 2248/27. Regret no boats are available on this station.
(C.in C. E.I. 0532Z/2 to C.in C. Med.).

DAUNTLESS. N.A. Lisbon is being asked if DAUNTLESS may visit Marmagoa 8/12 for 24 hours.
(C.in C.E.I. 0756Z/2 to Admty.).
Cancelled C 1144/3.

CARTHAGE Sailed, escorting VARELA.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0954Z/2 to Admty. etc.).

R.A.3 B.S. 1. Flag of Rear Adm. S.S. Bonham Carter hoisted in RAMILLIES at 0900/2.
(R.A.3. 1638A/2 to Admty. rep. C.in C. H.F. C.in C. W.A. etc.).

China.

Orders to shipping. Following orders given for British ships and Allied ships under British control on China Station.
(a) Withdrawal of all ships north of Hong Kong to be expedited.
(b) Ships over 4000 tons to leave Hong Kong to southward.
(c) No ship to leave Singapore to N.E. without special permission except to ports in Malaya or Borneo.
(2) No Dutch ship is allowed to sail northward Netherlands East Indies without permission Dutch C.in C.
(C.in C. China 0353Z/2 to C.in C. E.I. A.C.N.B. C.in C. A.W.I.).

Hong Kong Precautions. Kowloon Inf. Bde. and supporting Artillery on Gindrinkers Line with one Coy. Inf. on Frontier from 22/11. Portion Coast Arty. and A.A. at immediate and from 30/11, remainder at one hour. Beach defence guns at three hours. Hong Kong Inf. Bde. skeleton manned remainder at six hours. Frontier training camps cleared except that for volunteers. Volunteers not mobilised but at six hours' notice.
Navy. Lyemun boom closed. North shore boom being laid. Navigation lights except gap rock doused. British ships being unloaded of any foodstuffs. Question of siege rationing of

/services.

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong Precautions -Contd.	services and civil populace now under consideration. Local Frontier situation normal. (G.O.C. Hong Kong 0400/2 to C.in C. Far East).
Eastern Fleet Command.	At 0030Z/3/12. Adm. Sir Tom Phillips will assume command of Eastern Fleet which will till further orders comprise following units: PRINCE OF WALES (Flag) REPULSE, REVENGE, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, VAMPIRE. (2) Commands and Administration of remaining ships and establishments of China Station will continue to be carried out, by V.A. Sir G. Layton till further notification. (C.in C. China 0801Z/2 to China Stn.).
BOUGAINVILLE (French).	Arrived 30/11. (A.C.G. Saigon 0855Z/2 to D.of S.T.).
Japanese Intelligence.	F.E.W. 59 serial 215 to B.A. Tokyo. Japanese preparations as F.E.W. 58 continue. No aircraft French Indo China approx. N. 120 S. 180 including 90 heavy bombers in south (corrupt groups) Troops south 2 divisions and mechanised formation north 2 possibly 3 divisions. Majority of second fleet comprising 12 modern cruisers 28 destroyers now in Formosa - South China Area. 9 submarines sighted 100 miles north of Camranh Bay 2/12 course S. In spite of apparent deadlock Japanese Cabinet decided on 1/12 to continue Washington conversations. (Singapore 0951Z/2 to Admty.).
Japanese Situation.	Chiefs of Staff No. J.I.C.I. (1st S.L. 1526A/2 to C.O.I.S. Singapore, for Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips) See Lion Copy.

America and West Indies.

CARADOC.	Your A.W.I. 939/70 dated 10/10. Anticipated that CARADOC will return to U.K. for leave and adjustment of complement on completion of refit. Ship may be reduced to complement authorised by A.M. 2217/3/10. Ratings so released are to be returned to U.K. at first opportunity if not required by B.A.R.M. for manning other ships returning to U.K.

/Junior.....

MOST SECRET.

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2.12. 1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CARADOC -Contd.	Junior ratings recently joined who can be spared for A.W.I. pool should be withdrawn now. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0035A/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
DUC D'AUMALE (French).	Left Carapito westward bound 2/12. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0911Q/2 to S.O.I. Kingston).
Positions.	H.M. and Allied ships at 1800 G.M.T./2. (D.O.D.(F)1107Z/2 to Opnav) See Lion Copy.
PUEBLA (ex ORINOCO)	German ship ORINOCO renamed PUEBLA Mexican Flag sailed Tampico 29/11 for Vera Cruz. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1014R/2 to Admty. etc.).
KING MALCOLM.	Your 1724A/8/11. S.C. 50. Request verification of local report that KING MALCOLM subsequently arrived safely. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1430Z/2 to Admty.). Reply 1241/3.
Japanese S/M's and Transports.	Information supplied by C.in C. of Asiatic Fleet (0730Z/2) indicates the presence of 3 type 1-61 submarines bearing 070 from Saigon distant 180 miles in cruising formation headed south at 15 knots. Also there are 21 transports anchored in Camranh Bay with 6 planes patrolling over them. (Opnav 1453Z/2 to Admty.).
BYT.1- BYT.5.	Following from B.A.S.R. Your 1042/27. (Details) (b) Estimated sailing dates are as follows: BYT 1 10/12 BYT 2 31/12 BYT 3 9/2 BYT 4 10/3 BYT 5 10/4, but are liable to alteration. Further signal concerning possible crews from M.of W.T. will be made. (B.A.D. 1455R/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
PANDORA	Ref. 1720/30 from Admty. and 1755/11 and my 1704/21. PANDORA is expected to sail from New London for Halifax p.m./15. Request C.in C. A.W.I. will route vessel and that C.O.A.C.and C.C.N.F. may inform PANDORA of movements of own ships and arrange T.B.R. 30 miles either side of her route informing PANDORA of arrangements made PANDORA will be keeping W/T Watch in accordance with A.F.O. 'S' series 1 sec. A.C. table 2 (iii) para (b). (B.A.R.M. 1500R/2 to C.in C. A.W.I. etc.).

/U.S. Troops....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

U.S. Troops for Surinam.	U.S. Destroyers BARNEY and BLAKELEY escorting S.S. YARMOUTH with 600 U.S. troops for Surinam sailed 1/12. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1509/2 to Admty.).
PRUDENT MACBETH.	PRUDENT towing MACBETH at 1400/29 in 4625 N. 3910 W. 270 (27?)° one knot. Later report timed 0400Z/30 states steamer's cable parted. PRUDENT endeavouring to heave in tow rope and take ship in tow again. Wind force 10. Am anxious regarding PRUDENT fuel. If assistance required suggest FOUNDATION FRANKLIN now in this vicinity be sent. (C.C.N.F. 1515Z/2 to C.O.A.C.). At 1715Z/2 PRUDENT reported with MACBETH in 046° 32' 039° 00'. S.W. gale. Drifting. 8 days fuel remaining. PRUDENT ordered to return to St. John's N.F. for fuel. C.O.A.C. Halifax requested whether FOUNDATION FRANKLIN can be diverted from present duties to go to MACBETH vide N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F. 1457Z/2 to N.C.S.O Halifax N.S. (C.C.N.F. 1912Z/2 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.O.A.C. Halifax. etc.).
ALCANTARA.	C.in C. South Atlantic 1111/23. Forthwith, but request early information of E.T.A. Ship should arrive wearing Red Ensign and meet pilot 2½ north of Cape Henry at 0800 zone 5 time. (S.A.R.M. 1546R/2 to Admty.).
S/M SURCOUF.	Your 1642/30. para. (B) approved. 2. C.in C. S.A. is requested to indicate approach route. (D.O.D. (F) 1748A/2 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
MARSDALE.	MARSDALE is to leave patrol 1200A/5 for Halifax passing through (a) 040° 00' N. 050° 00' W. and south of Sable Island, E.T.A. a.m./10. (S.O.W.P. 1750/2 to Western Patrol). My 1750A addressed Western Patrol. Request MARSDALE may be supplied with approx. 600 tons. each fuel oil and fresh water. (2) MARSDALE should leave Halifax for patrol 15/12. Patrol area will be signalled. (S.O.W.P. 1752A/2 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1724/29 DEVONSHIRE can be taken at Navy Yard Norfolk at once. Job No. S.242 request information when ship may be expected. She should meet pilot 2½ miles N. of Cape Henry at 0800 zone time on day of arrival.
(B.A.R.M. 1750R/2 to Admty.).
Postponed - see Adty. 2342/3.

Long range R/C A/C for Western Approaches.

Personal for First Sea Lord from Admiral Little. Your 0356A 2nd. to Admiral Stark. While Catalinas would come within province of U.S. Naval Authority "other aircraft of equivalent range" could only be land type belonging to U.S. Army Air Services. Harris informs me that there is at present a considerable and acrimonious dispute between U.S. Services over desire of U.S. Navy to acquire long range heavy bomber types for (?sea) reconnaissance and he foresees if Stark is advised to use your message in this domestic dispute it may create bad feeling here and result in accusations by U.S. Army that we are taking sides. Moreover it is not clear from your signal whether you propose U.S. aircraft with U.S. crews or release of more U.S. aircraft to be operated by us. In view of above consideration I suggest that we should also make this request from Chiefs of Staff as a whole to Joint Board rather than ostensibly a personal matter between you and Stark and therefore fraught with dangerous local complications. Stark already has message.
(B.A.D. Washington 1815R/2 to 1st S.L.).

ILLUSTRIOUS FORMIDABLE.

Your 2030A/27. As dates of departure of ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE differ by only 2 days request I may be given early information if there is any likelihood of destroyers being late at R/V so that if you consider this to be desirable FORMIDABLE can be sailed in time to make use of same escort as ILLUSTRIOUS.
(B.A.R.M. 1822R/2 to Admty.).

S.E. Pacific Force.

Continuing 2053/10/11. Programmes.
(Opnav, 1915/2 to Admty. etc.). See Lion Copy.

Vichy Intelligence

Meter Casablanca 29/11. A.1 ILE D'OUESSANT and ILE DE NOIR MEUTIER arrived. Dakar 29/11. A.1. MEDIE TWO, C.M. ARMAND BLANC arrived. Dakar 1/12 A.1. Convoy with BRESTOIS, STRABON, IFORT, ARCHAMBAULT cleared southwards. JAMAIQUE and ARCTURUS arrived from Casablanca with several hundreds Senegalese troops for demobilisation.
(B.A.D. 1941R/2 to S.O.I. Freetown).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

O.N.42. Unit 4.1.16 composed of SOREL, NANIMO, MAYFLOWER, KENOGANI, PRESCOTT, LETHERIDGE, DUNVEGAN, designated escort.
(Opnav 1949Z/2 to Admty.).

GARLAND damaged. Your 2027A/20/11 GARLAND arrived Halifax a.m./2 with heavy weather damage. Magazine flooded and anti-submarine out of action.
Ship will be docked 4/12 when hull damage and time required for repairs will be signalled.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 2056Z/2 to Admty.).

DUNEDIN survivors. U.S. merchant ship NISHMAHA picked up 72 men on 27/11 from DUNEDIN which was torpedoed and sunk on 24/11. Five died since. NISHMAHA has been directed to land survivors, some of whom require medical attention, at Trinidad.
NISHMAHA position 007° 30' N. 038° 50' W. at noon 2/12. Course 283° speed 9 knots.
(B.A.D. 2107R/2 to Admty. C.in C. A.W.I. N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

Australia.

CAP DES PALMES. Repeat to F.N.F.L. London from B.N.L.O. CAP DES PALMES will sail from Papeete 2/12 at 2200 G.M.T.
(Consul Gen. Papeete, 0217Z/2 to Admty.).

SYDNEY PARAMATTA. Message of sympathy at loss. SYDNEY was a most gallant ship with a record that will live in Naval history, and we can find some consolation in the fact that she ended her career by freeing our ocean lifelines of a serious menace. PARAMATTA's work too has been of great service to our common course.
(1st Lord 2306A/2 to A.N.N.B.) Acknowledged 1018Z/2.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA.

Following has been read - SSSS 35° 27' N. 20° 00' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA, sighted submarine. (Liverpool W/T 0521/2).
Position 35° 24' N. 29° 57' W. (Lands End Radio 0530/2, T.O.R. 0635/2).
Following has been read:- SSSS 35° 20' N. 29° 58' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA chased. (Liverpool W/T 0616/2, T.O.R. 0720).
Following from Cape Race Radio, Begins:- SSSS 35° 14' N. 29° 58' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA chased 0615/2 (Ends) Signed O.I.C. (Halifax N.S., 0624 G.M.T./2).
Following has been read:- SSSS 35° 24' N. 29° 52' W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA gunned. (Liverpool W/T 0624/2 de GLD T.O.R. 0726/2).
Intercept 0530 G.M.T. SSSS 35.24 N. 29.58 W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA sighted submarine 0630/2. (C. in C. Plymouth, from Lands End Radio T.O.R. 0634/2).
Intercept 0623 G.M.T. SSSS. 35.14 N. 29.52 W. MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA gunned. (Lands End 0723/2 to Adm., Plymouth, 44 Group, T.H.I. 0738/2 to D.O.N.C. Whitehall).
Following from Land's End Radio. Intercept 0823 G.M.T. de CNW (Tanger Radio) to C Q: ship inconnu demande assistance, 35.14 N. 29.57 W. (or 29.58 W.) not re-broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0924/2 to Admty.)
Captain of port Ponta Delgada intercepted message stating MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA torpedoed 035° 14' N. 029° 52' W. at 0520 G.M.T./2nd. Portuguese DES VOUGA being sent to search. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1032/2 to S.O.I. Gib).

Submarines Reported.

0405. 1 submarine bearing 340° from SPA 13 miles. (A/C 0405/2 to Gibraltar W/T).

0521Z. Ref. Admty. Message A.F. position 35° 27' N. 29° 57' W. at 0521Z/2. (D.D.I.C. 06452/2).

0755. 1 Submarine bearing 253° position SPA 14, submerged. (A/C Y, 0755/2, 0845/2 to Gib. W/T).

0230Z. 9 submarines sighted by naval aircraft in 13° 10' N. 110° 00' E. at 0230Z/2 course South, speed 10. (Opnav, 0945/2 to Admty.)

0724A. At 0724A D/F bearings located U-Boat probably in Huelva Bay. (F.O.C.N.A. 1257A/2 to Capt. D. 19, Groups 1 and 2, IMPERIALIST).

/Estimated....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs. (D.D.I.C. 1435A/2, 1436A/2).

1803Z. D/F bearing at 1803Z/2nd. Enemy unit probably U-boat estimated 071° 05' N. 024° 00' E. unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2325C/2 to BERWICK).

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 1/12. A/C 2155A/1. RDF contact at 3 miles S/M identified at 1½ on surface travelling fast course 90° Spartel. Smaller U-boat than encountered last night. First D/C dropped half a length astern, second D/C dropped alongside stern 15 feet out of height 30 feet. S/M remained on surface about 20 seconds after dropping of second D/C. S/M then crash dived apparently under control, no oil observed but circle of white foam and one large air bubble. (F.O.C.N.A. 0922A/2 to Admty.)

By A/c. My 1015 (N.T. in W.D.). Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate nil hits. (? 1030/2 to 201 Group).
My 1030. Enemy has altered course to 270 approx. Am returning to base. (? 1050/2 to 201 Group H.Q.)

By A/C and STORK. Aircraft's 0405/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) S/M was sighted at ½ mile on surface at high speed on course 160. Swordfish attacked from 50 feet as S/M dived. One D/C 15 feet from stern and one abreast of conning tower 20 feet to starboard. At 0530 (? STORK) obtained a good contact in vicinity and carried out two attacks. Hunt continues. Aircraft's 0755/2nd (N.T. in W.D.) Aircraft reported S/M submerged. A/C attacked from too high and D/Cs did not fire. Course of S/M, N.E. Destroyer sweeping area. (F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/2 to Admty.)

Report on A/S operation 30/11 - 2/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 2248A/2) See North Atlantic.

/By.....

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked-Contd.

By A/C
2155/1.
0403/2.
0755/2.

Swordfish attacked U/Boat at 2155 in position 270° Spartel 20. Another U/Boat was attacked at 0403, position 340° Spartel 13. Another U/Boat attack was made at 0755, position 253° Spartel 142. Results of attack not yet assessed. (200 Group, 1930/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Yarmouth was closed from 0725A to 0855A on account of fog. Harwich was reopened at 1115A today.

C. in C. Home Fleet considers that, with 3 of his Cruisers required for the Russian Convoys and KENT detailed for special service, the chances of intercepting any Enemy Unit endeavouring to break out into the Atlantic are dangerously low, and he asks that every effort may be made to carry out frequent air R/C of enemy ports.

C. in C. Portsmouth points out that, unless PUCKERIDGE re-joins his Command before the beginning of FERNIE's refit on 15/12, there will be only 2 destroyers available for C.E. and C.W. convoys and no margin in case of breakdown.

The Tanker DIE DENHOFFEN laden with 6,000 tons of oil is reported to have left Oslo today for North Norway and Finland.

The Tuskar Light was reported extinguished at 1325A today.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations to day or tonight on account of weather. Coastal Command aircraft attacked shipping successfully off the coast of Norway.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Owing to fog the Thames Estuary approach channels were not swept by 0730A today.

Owing to fog preventing minesweeping Barry and all ports east of Barry will remain closed until 1100/4. S.S. MACLAREN was sunk today in 51° 21' 21" N. 3° 17' 17" W. after the position had been swept this morning.

North Atlantic.

French Liner Convoy.

A French Convoy consisting of the large liners ERIDAN, 9,928 tons, PROVIDENCE, 11,996 tons and PORTHOS, 12692 tons, and one tanker, with a destroyer of the SIMOUN class, passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1315 today.

Special A/S searches by surface vessels and aircraft from Gibraltar were carried out today.

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE, which C. in C. S.A. had intended to pass through 30° 00' S., 08° 00' W. and then to R/V with ECHODALE to refuel was at midday today ordered by Admty. to proceed to Capetown forthwith. She is to be detached temporarily from S.A. Station to escort Convoy W.S.12 X. to Suez and return, taking the place of AUSTRALIA.
Admty. hope to send another 8-in. cruiser from home, but at present at least 2 are out of action with rough weather damage.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Destroyers. Changes in the distribution of destroyers, consequent on the decision to reinforce the Mediterranean, were outlined by the Admiralty tonight.

A/S vessels. C. in C. Med. points out how low his strength is in small A/S vessels, the total for the entire station being 28 plus 11 M.L's for escort work. He considers that 3 more A/S groups are urgently needed on the station, one of which should consist of corvettes.

Submarines. Capt. S.1. and Capt. S.10 have resumed operational control of their respective flotillas.

A/S Sweep. Capt. D.14 was tonight ordered to take HERO, HASTY and HAVOCK under his orders for A/S sweeps alongside convoy routes, to reach 25° 30' E. at 1800/4.

Air Operations. All air operations from Malta were cancelled today owing to bad weather.

Libya and Western Desert. As the enemy are reported to be running supplies by caiques landing in the area Marsa Lucch and Sollum Bay, Capt. (D) 7 was at midday today ordered to investigate if conditions permit, but not to expose his force unduly to gunfire from Bardia battery.

Mines have been laid by aircraft in the entrance of Raz Makhabez, 33.09 N., 11.42 E., which was thought to be Tripoli (Africa). A fourth mine was dropped 23' W. of Tripoli. Pilots are unable to supply more exact detail.

East Indies.

AUSTRALIA. Owing to the Far East situation and the loss of SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA is to be released from the escort of Convoy W.S.12X. and is to proceed towards Fremantle. Her future movement will be decided at the coming conference at Singapore.

/DAUNTLESS.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies-Contd.

DAUNTLESS. Admty. have cancelled their order for DAUNTLESS to remain in the East, and she is to continue her passage towards U.K.

Eastern Fleet.

Battleships. C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers that the arrival of further capital ships at Singapore cannot well be delayed, and is anxious to begin fleet training of battleships. He considers REVENGE and ROYAL SOVEREIGN should join him at Singapore as soon as the latter can arrive, about 20/12, and proposes that she should be released from escort work at the Cape. (She is at present with W.S.12Z). He also suggests that advantage be taken of the passage of WARSPITE through the station to give an appearance of strength by keeping her at Singapore for about a week.

Command. Adm. Sir Tom Phillips assumed command of Eastern Fleet at 0030Z today. It comprises at present REPULSE, REVENGE, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, VAMPIRE. ^ PRINCE OF WALES.

America and West Indies.

INDOMITABLE, which arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, on 25/11 from U.S.A., is to remain at Jamaica until further orders and continue working up.

Arrangements for DEVONSHIRE to repair at Norfolk, U.S.A., have been postponed for operational reasons.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign.

S.S. CLAN MACBEAN reported being attacked by U/B at 1310 today in 24.42 S., 06.09 W., or in the latitude of Walvis Bay.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Availability of Destroyers.

It will be advisable to boiler clean BERKELEY starting 0800/5, ship being out of action for this purpose from that time until 0800/11. This will leave BLENCATHRA and FERNIE available during that period.
2. The refit of FERNIE has been approved by Admty. 1921/29/11 to start on 15/12. If ship is taken in hand before PUCKERIDGE rejoins only two destroyers will be available for C.E. and C.W. Convoys leaving no margin in case of breakdown.
3. Request information whether absence of PUCKERIDGE is likely to be prolonged and if refit of FERNIE should be delayed accordingly.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1013A/3 to Admty.)

2 Destroyers for Force H.

Request you will sail 2 "Vees" or "Towns" as soon as possible to join Force H.
2. BADSWORTH and CROOME must also be sailed with W.S.14 as already arranged.
3. CROOME cannot be regarded as a relief for HARVESTER but "H" class destroyers are to return to Western Approaches on relief by (a) FOXHOUND (b) ANTHONY (c) ACTIVE.
(V.C.N.S. 1352A/3 to C. in C. W.A.)

4th M/L Flotilla.

F.O.i/c. Portland's 1250/27. The 4th M.L. Flotilla now based at Troon is re-allocated to Portland. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail available boats as soon as possible remainder being sailed when ready.
(D.D.O.D. C., 1546A/3.)

Tobermory M.L. facilities.

Your 1735/22/11. From a preliminary survey 4 M.Ls. can be berthed at Trots at Tobermory. Detailed proposals for moorings are being prepared. Nearest fuel supply is at Oban, but a tank installed at Tobermory or at Salem in Loch Sunart would be preferable.
(R.A.C.F., 1818/3 to Admty.)

23rd M/L Flotilla.

A.L.N.017444/41 of 25/11/41. The 23rd M.L. Flotilla is allocated as relief flotilla. Request you will nominate four boats to each division and forward proposals for training programme and for any re-arming that may be necessary.
(D.D.O.D. C., 1947A/3 to R.A.C.F.)

Destroyer Movements.

Summary of Destroyer Movements consequent on decision to reinforce Mediterranean Destroyers. Details.
(A.C.N.S. F., 2216A/3.) See Lion Copy.

/State.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 3.12.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

State of H.F. Cruisers.

The state of Home Fleet cruisers is as follows.
(a) KENYA and CUMBERLAND require taking in hand for weather damage repairs. Probable time required for KENYA 8 days, CUMBERLAND not yet in.
(b) NORFOLK has a hull weakness and if she meets bad weather damage requiring docking is almost certain to develop.
(c) Other cruisers available are SUFFOLK, BERWICK, KENT, ARETHUSA, EDINBURGH, and SHEFFIELD of which both SUFFOLK and EDINBURGH need a refit.
2. With 3 cruisers constantly required for P.Q. and Q.P. convoys and KENT for special service, it will be impossible even without any further commitments to maintain more than one cruiser on each patrol; and in these circumstances chances of interception are dangerously low.
3. Request every effort may be made to carry out frequent air reconnaissance of enemy ports.
(C. in C. H.F., 2335A/3 to Admty.)

RAMILLIES.

Although C.O. RAMILLIES informed me he was satisfied his ship was adequately worked up to make (? A) passage (? with me) I do not consider RAMILLIES can be regarded as a real protection to a convoy, nor that she should proceed where there is likelihood of meeting enemy force or aircraft until she has had enough time to work up both fighting efficiency and better control.
(C. in C. H.F., 2344A/3 to Admty.)

Visit of Norwegian C. in C. to Troon.

In view of Admiralty's 1546A/3, request visit of C. in C. Royal Norwegian Navy to Troon on 5/12 may be cancelled.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2358A/3.)

Co-operation with Russia.

A/S Trawlers.

Are STELLA CAPELLA and BUTE now at Murmansk the first two of nine to be transferred to Russians.
2. If not when may they be expected.
(Ad. Miles, 1754B/3.)

Movements.

ORUC REIS. MURAT REIS. (Turkish)

Request you will sail ORUC REIS and MURAT REIS on completion of working up to Gibraltar for onward passage through to the Eastern Mediterranean.
2. Delivery port has not yet been decided.
(D.O.D. H., 0054A/3 and 1353A/3.)

/LOWESTOFT.....

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

LOWESTOFT. Detach LOWESTOFT to Rosyth when situation permits.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1002/3 to LIDDESDALE.)

Floating Crane. Arrived floating crane in tow of EMPIRE HENCHMAN, STALWART and DANUBE VI escorted by AQUAMARINE, SPHENE and M.L.205.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1128A/3.)

B.P.T.33 Intend to sail tug EMPIRE BASCOBEL towing B.P.T.33 escorted by CORNELIAN from Plymouth a.m./5th for Scapa. Estimated speed 5 knots. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange to relieve CORNELIAN a.m./7th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1233/3.)

KENYA, BEDOUIN, INTREPID. My 1057N/26/11. If Captain Egipko is on board or if there is other reason to do so KENYA is to call at Scapa. Otherwise proceed direct to Rosyth. BEDOUIN and INTREPID proceed to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 1438A/3 to KENYA.)

P.39. My 1551A/8/11 and my 1312A/20/11.
(a) In view of our intensified A/S air effort by night in Bay of Biscay area and of enemy increased U-Boat activity in vicinity of Gibraltar P.39 is to carry out her 2 working up patrols from Gibraltar.
(b) If convenient it is suggested these should take form of anti-submarine patrol within say 300 miles off Gibraltar.
(c) Capt. (S) 3rd S.F. is to sail P.39 for Gibraltar accordingly when ready.
(F.O.S., 1506A/3.)

UNA. (1) Intend to sail UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR at 1600A/5 for position 050° N. 006° 30' W. E.T.A. 1900A/7.
(2) Thence WHITE BEAR return to Holy Loch.
(3) Thence UNA proceed to dive by day through the following position for Patrol in Bay of Biscay West Zone.
(4) UNA will leave Patrol area after dark 14/12 and proceed diving by day through 044° N. 009° W. to position 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0800A/15.
(5) Thence UNA proceed to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(6) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation as follows.
(Capt. S.3., 1633A/3.)

/P.36.....

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

P.36. My 1849/1. Postponed 24 hours. Same route.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1701/3.)

WHITEHALL.
CAMPBELTOWN. WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN are to be sailed tomorrow to Milford Haven. After refuelling at Milford Haven ships are to be sailed to Gibraltar proceeding best speed consistent with endurance and weather conditions.
(C. in C. W.A., 1734A/3 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
Report immediately in accordance with C.A.F.O. 726/41.
2. Para. 2 (a) Milford Haven. (b) 5th December. (c) Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. H., 1924A/3 to Admty.)

P.511. Arrived CUTTY SARK and P.511.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1830A/3.)

H.31. My 1051A/1. Sailed H.31 and Z.5.
(Capt. S.7, 2044/3.)
Anticipate you will meet H.31 escorted by Z.5 proceeding Clyde Londonderry tonight.
(C. in C. W.A., 2217A/3 to HEARTSEASE, AMAZON, MARNE.)

Operations.

Patrols. M/S and A/P patrols for 3/12 as in my 1014/2 except for H.S. PATTI ARLEY.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1027A/3.)
No patrols tonight Station.
(N.O.I.C. Dover, 1559A/3 to BLENCATHRA.)
Patrol tonight (1) 3 M.L.'s on Q E (8)
(C. in C. Nore, 1650A/3.)

Trials with WESTCOTT. My 1250/26. Owing to poor progress today it may be necessary to continue trial seven on 5/12. Request S.7 may arrange for area Inchmarnock North and South to be available.
(C.A/S. E.E., 1843A/3 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Interception of Enemy Units. State of H.F. Cruisers. Chances of interception are dangerously low.
(C. in C. H.F., 2335A/3.) See Policy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Thames Estuary. Owing to fog the approach channels have not been swept.
(X.D.O. Sheerness, 0730A/3.)

Bristol Channel. Exploded red magnetic mine at 0954A/2 in position 51° 26'18" N. 03° 49'30" W.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 0955A/3.)
Owing to fog preventing minesweeping, Barry and all ports east of Barry will remain closed until 1100/4.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1018A/3.)

Minefield off Bodo. Controlled minefields are reported at both ends of Hjartoysund off Bodo. Graded B.3.
(D.D.I.C., 1214A/3.)

MACLAREN (British, 2330 tons) sunk. (2) MACLAREN sunk in 51° 21'21" N. 3° 17'17" W. Position was swept this morning.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1352A/3.)

Humber. Humber is open to navigation.
(F.O. Humber, 1519A/3.)

Operation N.P.18A. Intend to carry out operation N.P.18A tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 1602A/3.)
M.Ls. 101 - 103 carrying out N.P.18A. Expected time of departure 2300, expected time of return 0430/4.
(V.A. Dover, 1736A/3.)

Operation Q.0. Operation Q.0. postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Nore, 1748A/3.)

Exploded red mine 1439A/3 in 013° 2 miles from Watchet Pier Light.
(Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1820A/3.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian shipping. Tanker DIE DENHOFEN with 6000 tons oil left Oslo today for North Norway and Finland. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1731/3.)

Ships off Calais. One large and several small enemy vessels have been detected by R.D.F. passing Calais westwards at 1935 speed 12 knots.
(V.A. Dover, 1958A/3.)
My 1958A/3. These vessels have now entered Boulogne.
(V.A. Dover, 2151A/3.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Yarmouth.	Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0725A/3.) Cancel my 0725A/3. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0855A/3.)
Harwich.	My 2021/2. Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1115A/3.) Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1756A/3.)
Faroes.	Borin light and fog signal out of action. (Hydrog, 1237A/3.)
Tuskar Light.	Tuskar Rock Light House reported extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1325A/3.) No.1884 Tuskar Rock light and fog signal unreliable. (Hydrog., 1650A/3.)
Wrecks off 58A Buoy.	Commodore of F.N.67 reports lights on Dan Buoys marking wrecks close East and West of 58A buoy not seen in good visibility at 0600/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1554/3.)
Varne.	No.7 lightbuoy replaced in charted position. N.E. Varne Light buoy relit. (V.A. Dover, 1931A/3.) (Hydrog., 2244A/3.)

Casualties and Defects.

R.J.CULLEN.	O.N.39. TENACITY escorted by WINDERMERE has been sailed from Iceland to assist R.J.CULLEN. (D.T.D. 0645Z/3 to Opnav.)
WEREWOLF.	(N.A.B.) Broke adrift from her moorings during gale 25/11/41 and became a total loss. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1141/3.)
WELLARD.	Cancel my 1005Z/3. Repaired safety valve ineffective necessitating further delay. Earliest possible sailing time 1900Z/3. (WELLARD, 1205A/3.)

/EMPIRE....

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

EMPIRE CHIVALRY, (Damaged 2/12.)

Departure Tug LADY BRASSEY to assistance of EMPIRE CHIVALRY.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1431A/3.)
EMPIRE CHIVALRY anchored Platters 1640. Extensive superficial and hull damage not serious. Water in vessel under ships own control. Master states does not require salvage assistance if he can proceed port of repair immediately.
(Ad. Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1830A/3.)

BLAIR NEVIS, (Damaged 24/11.)

Chief Salvage Officer reports unable to obtain sufficient buoyancy under existing conditions to justify risk of towing vessel to Humber. Tugs detached for this duty can be dispensed with. Salvage operations in hand with ultimate aim to save ship and cargo. Request all possible tugs 0800 Thursday to tow vessel up onto beach whilst fixing ground tackle as salvage operations will take several weeks. 1455A/3. Ends. Propose HEADSMAN and SCOTSMAN be retained until vessel is beached.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, ? T.O.O./3.)

BLACKWATER.

Capt. i/c Port Edgar's 1736/3 is passed for information begins.
BLACKWATER grounded forward at 0935/3 and fractured a frame in approx. position 260° Hen and Chickens Buoy south 1½ cables whilst carrying out S.A. sweep of R.S.C.M. 064A. Ends.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1850/3.)

BRITISH CAPTAIN, (Mined 2/12)

Departure Tugs DIVERSION and KROOMAN at 1411A, with Salvage Officer to wreck BRITISH CAPTAIN, vicinity 54C buoy.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2031A/3.)

Shipping and Convoys.

"Skipper"

My 1549/2. "Skipper" postponed owing to fog.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0858/3.)

F.N.69

Following is an extract of my 0946A. F.N.69 delayed owing to fog. Propose to cancel this convoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 0950A/3.)

S.D.17. BRIGHTON.

Proceed to Greenock with S.D.17 and make arrangements to comply with my 1631/2.
(R.A.M., 1014/3 to BRIGHTON.)

/O.N.41....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 3.12.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.41. O.N.41 sailed 2200/2 to join convoy OZARK (U.S.) Ocean route (U) Nantucket Light Vessel via Ambrosi Channel to New York. E.T.A. 15/12. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1023N/3.)

O.N.S.47 ROXBOROUGH. A.M. 1826A/29/11. ROXBOROUGH will be available to sail with O.N.S.47. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1258A/3.)

O.S.12. O.S.12 report P.C.S. and number of ships in company. If Convoy is split report escorts present with each Section. Also report what action is being taken on Admiralty's 1131A/3. (C. in C. W.A., 1439A/3 to Escorts of O.S.12.)

W.S.14. Intend sailing Bristol Channel Section from Barry Roads at 1330/5 to Belfast, E.T.A. 1630/6, and therefrom at 0230/7 to Oversay R/V in accordance with your 1825A/1 and Admiralty 0108A/26. Escort ULSTER QUEEN. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1507A/3 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1518A/2. (i) Delete all reference to WHITEHALL. (ii) Cancel para. 4(d) and substitute new para. 4(d) as follows: ULSTER QUEEN, WESTCOTT, and WITHERINGTON are to remain with convoy till prudent limit of endurance and return to North Channel in company. ULSTER QUEEN proceeding Belfast and destroyer to Londonderry. (iii) Para. 4(e) delete WESTCOTT and WITHERINGTON. (C. in C. W.A., 1848A/3.)

State of RAMILLIES. (C. in C. H.F., 2344A/3.) See Policy.

F.S.62. Do not arrive at 51 buoy before 0730. Anchor in swept channel between 51 buoy and B.8 and await further orders. (C. in C. Nore, 2211A/3 to QUANTOCK.) Between 54 F and 54 E, F.S.(No.)62 has anchored visibility ½ miles. (QUANTOCK, 2355A/3.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

JAY	Horta reports JAY delayed by damage to steering gear in heavy weather. Portuguese Authorities have granted extension. Expected to sail 7/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 0014A/3 to Admty. C.in C. S.A.).
0.21.	Admty. 1838A/22/10. On what date will 0.21 leave Gibraltar for Dundee. (F.O.S. 0026A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).
French Shipping Spanish troops and cruiser.	Gibraltar 2/12 0830 French Survey Ship SENTINELLE BONIFACIO light, deck cargo eight motor lorries PARAME full deck cargo casks, three motor cars, KERMARIA LA BLANCHE II French Auxiliary Trawler MIRPASSE, Westbound. Ceuta departure 2/12 1100 CIUDAD DE ALGECIRAS for Algeciras with large numbers of troops. 2/12 1930 Spanish Cruiser in 042°. Cape Espichel ten miles steering 350° 10 knots. (S.O.I. Gibraltar T.H.I. 0215/3).
French Convoy.	French convoy of three large liners and one tanker escorted by one destroyer 270° Spartel 2, eastbound. (WISHART 0915A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.). My 0915A/3. Liners are ERIDAN, PROVIDENCE and PORTHOS, destroyer is French Destroyer SIMOUN class. (WISHART 0928A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.). French convoy of 4 large merchant ships and one destroyer passed Gibraltar eastbound 1315. (F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/3 to CLYDE). My 2037/2 (N.T. in W.D.) but presumably T.H.I. 0215/3 refers). For Spanish Cruiser read minelayer Vulcano class. Gibraltar 1315 French destroyer L'ALCYON French ships PORTHOS, PROVIDENCE, ERIDAN, all laden tanker RHEA full eastbound. (1829A/3 from S.O.(I) Gib. to Adty. C.in C. Med.).
FORTUNE	Your 1620A/2. FORTUNE sailed 1316A/2. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1034A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.).
EUGENIO C (Italian) JOAO PESSOA (German)	Arrival 2nd EUGENIO C, proceeding to Castro Urdiales to load iron ore. Departure 2nd JOAO PESSOA, sailed last night, destination believed to be Nantes. (Consul, Bilbao, 1224/3 to Admty.).
Fuel Funchal.	Your 1630/2 Portuguese Admiralty would welcome some form of Gentleman's agreement which from my knowledge of them would be scrupulously observed. (N.A. Lisbon 1616/3 to N.C.S.O. Funchal).

/A/3....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

A/S Operations. U. 2248A/2. Request following information may be signalled:-
(1) Heights and ranges at which A.S.V. contact was made.
(11) Methods of approach.
(111)Any other points of interest.
(D.S.D. 1845A/3 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply 1302/5.

Flights over Spanish zone. Your 1045, not to Admiralty. As far as can be ascertained no British aircraft flew over Western Coast, Spanish zone on 30/11 or 1/12 but were flying in vicinity outside territorial limits.
(ii) On 1/12 Hurricane force-landed on beach in Tangier zone due to engine failure. As aircraft was in dangerous state the pilot endeavoured to set it on fire and having failed in this he asked another Hurricane to do it for him. This was effected with due regard for safety of local inhabitants. After satisfying himself in this respect he left area.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1900A/3 to Consul General Tangier).

H.G.76. Can date of sailing H.G. 76 be given please in view of impending commitments for escort and berths in Admiralty harbour.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2030A/3 to Admty.) Reply 1231/5.

GRELHEAD sunk. Following from Vice Consul Melilla (begins) GRELHEAD sunk off Punta Legri midnight first. Fear only two survivors, details later. (Ends).
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 2330A/3 to Admty.).
British 4274 tons, on passage from Gibraltar to Melilla (D.O.R.5/12). Independent from Melilla for U.K. with ore. (D.S. 823).

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE Well done.
(1st S.L. 0053A/3 to DORSETSHIRE).

STANLEY E.T.A. Bathurst 0630Z/3.
(STANLEY 0059Z/3 to C.in C. S.A.).

BIRMINGHAM. DORSETSHIRE. Your 1559/2 (1829N/2 intended). Though reluctant to break W/T silence I consider this plan would leave BIRMINGHAM dangerously short of fuel, estimated under 10%, if reasonable A/S precautions are taken, particularly as oilings at sea may be delayed by weather. Suggest you might consider BIRMINGHAM, after patrolling till

/P.M./6.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM, DORSETSHIRE. Contd.

P.M./6 (as in?) para. 5, proceeding to Cape to fuel, (?returning to) patrol area by 12th. If you think fit, DORSETSHIRE could proceed forthwith to fuel at Cape, returning to assist Corvettes to search. This would obviate possible delay in fuelling at sea and would enable both Oilers to be withdrawn from area of possible submarine activity.
(R.A.S.A.D., 0533Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)
ASTER pass to ECHODALE. In view of R.A.S.A.D's. 0533Z/3 amend my 1829/2 as follows. Para.6. add BIRMINGHAM should then proceed to fuel from INITIATIVE (As received- ? ECHODALE intended). Para. 7. delete D. Reference BIRMINGHAM para. 8 delete the reference to BIRMINGHAM and INITIATIVE (ECHODALE?) Add new Para 8 A. After fuelling DORSETSHIRE on 15/12 INITIATIVE (ECHODALE?) is to proceed to position D, my 1045N/26/11 and my 1817N/28/11 refer.
(C. in C. S.A.,0945N/3, to R.A.S.A.D.)
Cancelled, see 1327/3).
Your 1829/2. DORSETSHIRE is to proceed to Capetown forthwith. A.M.2322/1 refers.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1257A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)
Proceed to Capetown forthwith.
(C. in C. S.A., 1235N/3 to DORSETSHIRE).
My 1235N/3 was by Admiralty direction. Suggest BIRMINGHAM proceed now to Northward with a view to fuelling from ECHODALE in position (e) vide my (1)829N/2nd Para 2.
(C. in C. S.A., 1314N/3 to R.A.S.A.D.)
ASTER pass to ECHODALE, cancel my 0945N/3 and para 3 and 6 of my 1829/2. (C. in C. ,S.A.1327N/3 to R.A.S.A.D. etc).
Your 1314N/3 My 0533Z/3. Weather permitting BIRMINGHAM can arrive position (e) in daylight 5th. Unless air co-operation for corvette search is considered essential and cannot be delayed till DORSETSHIRE could return (about 9th) would much prefer BIRMINGHAM to fuel at Cape after patrol, vide my 0533Z/3. Following considerations influenced this opinion; (a) Likely delays in fuelling particularly outside calm area. (b) Danger from submarines vide Admty. 1357A/3 and CLAN MACBEAN 1310/3 especially to unescorted oilers and during fuelling operation. (c) If diverted to Cape BIRMINGHAM would carry out air R/C of F on 6/12. BIRMINGHAM has only one serviceable aircraft. Pending your instructions shall continue towards E in case you still wish BIRMINGHAM to fuel from ECHODALE. (R.A.S.A.D., 2341Z/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

/DUNEDIN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNEDIN survivors. — Following has been received. (Repeats B.A.D. 2107R/2). (D.C., 0745A/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

NORSEMAN. — 3/12 NORSEMAN to work in 002° 24" S., 041° 07" W. (Maranhao, 0942/3 to M. of W.T.)

ORIZABA W.S.12 X. — Fuel consumption of ORIZABA in W.S.12 X has been reported as in excess of original estimate. 2. Request F.O.I.C. Simonstown investigate on arrival whether she has safe margin to continue with convoy as far as Aden. If so she should refuel at that port en route to Suez and on return passage. (D.O.D. (F), 1329A/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

W.S.12 X and U/Bs. — Admty 1721A/24/11 and B.A.D. Washington's 2145R/26/11 is it yet known please if U.S. Destroyers will escort W.S.12 X out of Capetown and if so how far to the eastward? (C. in C. S.A., 1549N/3 to Admty).

A/C Recognition. — Admiralty 1112A/29/9/41. Report if Merchant Vessel/Aircraft Recognition Procedure is proving of value. (D.S.D., 1645A/3 to Cs.in C. S.A., E.I. China).

HOXA, ROMEO, CUMBRAE. — My 1543Z/2 HOXA and ROMEO sailed 1644Z/3. (2) CUMBRAE delayed for final adjustment will sail 0600Z/4 E.T.A. Kilindini A.M./12. (N.O.I.C., Durban, 1646Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

AUSTRALIA, DORSETSHIRE. — 1. Owing to situation in Far East it is necessary to release AUSTRALIA from her present convoy escort. Her future movement will no doubt be decided on at the Conference shortly to be held at Singapore. Pending further instructions AUSTRALIA is to be sailed towards Fremantle.
2. DORSETSHIRE is to be detached temporarily from S.A. Station to provide escort for W.S.12 X from Capetown to Suez and return. (1st S.L. 1655A /3 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B.).
A.M. 1655A/3. I am sorry that it has been found necessary to remove DORSETSHIRE temporarily from your Command.
2. At this stage we cannot weaken our forces in the East and must send AUSTRALIA to replace SYDNEY. 3. Your recent successes should, temporarily at least, have reduced the danger from raiders on your station.
4. I am anxious to send you another 8" cruiser from home as soon as possible but recent rough weather damage has put at least two out of action and this transfer cannot at present be considered. (1st S.L., 1659A/3 to C. in C. S A.)

/COMMANDANT....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

COMMANDANT DOMINE. Your 1210/30. COMMANDANT DOMINE will be docked at Simonstown on 5/12 for examination of propeller shafts which are vibrating badly estimated time required four days. Date of readiness for sea will be reported later. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1826B/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

Spanish suspect cargoes. A report from secret sources states that Spanish ships homeward bound receive cargo on high seas from coasting vessels bringing cargo from Punta Arenas Chile and Patagonia. Further reported that Spanish ship EOLO which left Buenos Aires 25/11 for Las Palmas may have taken additional cargo while at sea. Ships had navicert for 6974 tons maize, 50 tons linseed and 300 tons lentils. Secret sources have informed London. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2026Z/3 to Admty).

Whale Catchers. Your 1930B/1. (a) Agree (b) Government liability but fuel to be supplied from commercial stocks. (D. of S.T. 2112A/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

AUSTRALIA. Capt. Supt. Simonstown 0941/1. AUSTRALIA will undock p.m./5 and be at 4 hours notice for steam. After carrying out firing practices and fuelling ship will be ready for service a.m./8. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2133Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Force K. Well done again. (1st S.L., 0123A/3 to S.O. Force K).

PROTECTOR. PROTECTOR arrived Aden 2/12 in tow of EMPIRE KANGAROO. Request instructions for onward passage. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0802Z/3 to C. in C. Med)

1st S/M F.
10th S/M F. Capt. (S) 1 and Capt. (S) 10 have re-assumed operational control of their respective flotillas. (V.A. Malta, 1023B/3 to S/Ms. on Patrol).

/Convoy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy A.T.2.

Convoy A.T.2 is to consist of fast section of convoy CHANTALA, WOLBOROUGH, CRISTA; slow section of convoy, LESBOS, DARIEN (2) and 3"A" Lighters. If weather unsuitable A Lighters should sail separately with trawler escort. Convoy A.T. 2 is to be prepared to sail P.M./4. (C. in C. Med., 1127B/3 to All concerned in "Aggression").

Benghazi Derna bombed.

Night Dec. 1/2. Weather bad with 7/10 cloud at 2,000 feet. Wellingtons dropped over 17 tons bombs on Benghazi Harbour, Derna Town, and landing ground, and M.T. on roads, results mainly obscured. No shipping in Benghazi or Derna but 4 small ships near coast South of Benghazi. Day 2/12. Rain and very low cloud throughout day severely restricted operations.

Destroyers Attacked.

1 Blenheim attacked 2 Destroyers steering west 80 miles N. of Apollonia. No hits. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/3, 1233/3).

D.7. Patrol.

My 1604B/2. Patrol off Derna not required. Carry out prearranged further anti-S/M search area Ras Al (El) Melh - Tobruk tonight 3/4 so as tc be east of 025° 30' E., by 0600/4 and return to Alexandria.
Report indicates that enemy may be running supplies by Caiques landing in area Marsa Lucch and Sollum Bay. Investigate this if conditions permit but do not expose your force to gunfire of Bardia battery unduly.
(C. in C. Med., 1217B/3 to Capt. D.7).

Convoy A.T.2. (Slow).

"Aggression" Convoy A.T.2. (Slow) DARIEN. (2) Lighters "A" 100, "A" 9, "A" 4 joined by LESBOS from Mersa Matruh escort YARRA, FLAMINGO, SOUTHERN ? ISLES, SOUTHERN MAID, sailing 1600/4 through Shoulder buoy then 031° 04' N., 029° 07' E. F. 0500/5, A, 1430. B.0145/6. K. 1100 position 032° 22' N., 024° 35' E., at 1600, 032° 07' N., 024° 11' E., S. Tobruk boom 2145/6. Code name "Bosom". Request fighter protection daylight/5 also 6th if available by then S. of A. estimated at 6 knots but convoy to make best speed possible, times are therefore approximate only. (Alexandria, C.C.O. 1219B/3 to S.O. Force I).

U/B.

My 1329/2. Submarine sighted noon. Subsequently Turkish Air R/C failed to locate.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1222B/3 to S.O.(I) Med., and S.1).

/COETLOGON .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.12.1941. Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

COETLOGON French. Departure 2nd Sete. (Barcelona, 1243/3 to M. of W.T.)

Need for A/S Vessels. My 1147/1. Low Mediterranean strength in small A/S vessels. 28 such craft and 11 M.Ls. for escort work and Patrols for the whole station a most unfavourable figure compared with even quite small ports in U.K.
I consider that 3 more A/S Groups are urgently needed, of which one should consist of Corvettes.
My 1630/2 (re obtaining A/S Whalers from S. Africa) provides a quick means of meeting above requirement, and I trust Their Lordships will give the matter their urgent consideration.
(C. in C. Med., 1245/3 to Admty).

Libya. Enemy Intelligence (C. in C. ME. 1300/3 to W.O.) Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1550/3 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Mining. Your 0930B/2 (N.T. in W.R.) 3 Mines were laid in the entrance of Raz Makhabez 033° 09' N., 011° 42' E., which was thought to be Tripoli, the real target. The Fourth Mine was dropped 23' not 25' West of Tripoli. Pilots are unable to supply more exact detail and orders have been issued in accordance with your above mentioned signal. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1335B/3 to C. in C. Med).

TRITON. Greek S/M TRITON sailed at 1600B/3 through 031° 56' N., 030° 15' E., 031° 59' N., 031° 05' E., 031° 54' N., 032° 20' E., thence to Port Said arriving 0830B/5. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 1354B/3 to DELPHINIUM).

SURCOUF (intercepted 25/11). C.C.S.O. Aden's 1502/29 and your 1106/2. Master of SURCOUF, 1 French N.O., and 1 P.O. have been detained under surveillance in military camp. They are not prepared to consider joining Free French. Request instructions for their disposal. Though not in strict custody, legal adviser to Aden Govt. is doubtful as to legality of their detention but I consider it undesirable to allow them full freedom in Aden.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1354Z/3 to Admty). Reply 1338/4.

/Boom....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Boom Defences Turkey. Your 1715B/15/11/41. Arrangements being made for shipment of additional mooring chains and staples for local manufacture of concrete clumps for Bosphorus Boom.
Anchors and additional chain will be included in shipments for Dardanelles Boom. Hydraulic cutters expected to be available for shipment end of December. (D.B.D., 1419A/3 to A.N.A. Istanbul) Re equipment. (D.B.D., 1700A/3 to A.N.A. Istanbul).

Aden-Suez Shuttle Service. Understand from H.Q., R.A.F., Middle East message 1356/28/11 not addressed to you that scheme proposed in A.M.1157/19/11 is agreed. Air Ministry have been consulted and equipment will be forwarded. (D.T.D., 1531A/3 to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Report. Kerkennah Pantelleria R/C sighted 1340 hours French convoy, (See my I.267) East Kerkennah 5 miles course 220° 8 knots. 3 M/Vs. 4,000 tons, 1 M/v 2,000 tons, 2 Tankers 5,000 tons, 1 D/R possibly SIMOUN Class. 1343 hours, 1 small French war vessel (corrupt group) 3 miles course N.W. Night 2/3 December, very bad weather, 8 F.A.A. aircraft Weather R/C Catania returning bombed railway line Noto. Results unobserved. 3/12 all operations cancelled, bad weather, deluge of rain.
(R.A.F., Malta, 1621/3 to Air Ministry).

D.14 Sweep. Take HERO, HASTY, HAVOCK under your train 4th and carry A/S sweeps alongside convoy routes to reach 025° 30' E., at 1800/4. Further orders will be given. Derna patrol may be required a.m. on 5th. Fighter code "Faith".
(C. in C. Med., 2045B/3 to Capt. D.14).

Destroyers. Summary of movements consequent on decision to reinforce Mediterranean destroyers.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2216A/3 to Cs. in C. etc).
See Policy. Full text in Lion Copy only.

/Situation...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation report 172.

My 2130/30. Force B made no contact. Force K as in V.A.M.s 1143/2.
2. 15th C.S. returned to harbour having patrolled off Derna night 1/2 without encountering enemy. D.14 with four destroyers also patrolled off Derna night 30/1, JACKAL being damaged by torpedo as in my 1906/2. D.7. and four destroyers now operating between Tobruk and Bardia to intercept possible enemy supply traffic
3. Western Desert. Convoy A.T.1. has arrived Tobruk. Further convoy being sailed tonight 3/4. APHIS unable to bombard owing to bad weather. RAMB 4 grounded at Ras el Melh 60 miles East of Tobruk at 0630/1 but was refloated continued to Tobruk and has now returned Alex. damage probably not serious.
4. Submarines. My 1946/22. Cruiser was torpedoed by UTMOST range 1500 yards in position 3 (2nd figure missing) 48' N., 15° 32' E., at 2312/21. Heavy explosion resulted and every indication that cruiser sank. Second successful attack by SOKOL was at 2340/21 in position 36.35 N., 21.28 E., target one destroyer and three merchant ships. One ship considered sunk.
7. Levant. Minesweeper EGELAND aground in 31.27 N., 34.22 E. Attempts in progress to salvage. (C. in C. Med., 2231B/3 to Admty).

TRUSTY, PERSEUS.

TRUSTY leaves patrol P.M./4 and proceeds to Alexandria through 037° 26' 020° 10'. 034° 36' 021° 50' 033° 26', 026° 02', thence direct to end of searched channel. Adjust speed to pass through second position at approx. 0500B/6 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/9. PERSEUS is to take over patrol of Area P in addition to P.1. from 0001B/5. (Capt. S.1., 2317B/3 to TRUSTY, PERSEUS)

Axis Shipping.

Depart. 2nd LISBOA Marseilles with oranges.
Depart 3rd ESPIGUETTE loading pyrites for Genoa.
Depart. 3rd ATLAS loading oranges.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2400/3 to M. of W.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DAUNTLESS. — Cancel Admty. 0104/29. DAUNTLESS is to continue her passage towards U.K.
(1st S.L. 0122A/3 to C. in C. E.I.)
Cancel my 0756/2. Visit of DAUNTLESS has been cancelled.
(C. in C. E.I., 1144Z/3 to Admty.)
Following programme is intended for passage of DAUNTLESS through East Indies Station :- Colombo, leave a.m./4/12; Seychelles, p.m./8 - a.m./10; Mombasa a.m./13 - a.m./15, thence to South Africa port as arranged by N.O.I.C. Simonstown. (ii) Fuel capacity is 87% of normal for D. Class.
(C. in C. E.I., 1700Z/3 to Admty.)

PRESIDENT DOUMER. — My 0914/15/11. PRESIDENT DOUMER now sails 15/12. (P.S.T.O.I. 0758Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

B.P.29
B.P.30. — B.P.29 now consists of TALMA, LANCASHIRE, VARSOVA, RAJULA, ETHIOPIA, TAKLIWA, DEVONSHIRE.
My 1230/1/12. B.P.30 CAP ST. JACQUES, KHEDIVE ISMAIL, EKMA ISLAMI, ROHKA.
(P.S.T.O.I., 0754Z/3 to C. in C. E.I.)

GLASGOW. — Departure 0620 G.M.T., GLASGOW.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 1105Z/3 to Admty. etc.)

SPRINGTIDE. — U1550/1/12. SPRINGTIDE is delayed by repairs to compressor which will not be completed until 7/12 at earliest. 2. Programme will be reported in due course.
(C. in C. E.I., 1710Z/3 to Admty.)

VELEBIT
STAMATIOS G. EMBIRICOS. — Now known that Yugoslav VELEBIT, 4153 tons, was sunk by Raider 41 between Ceylon and Sumatra probably on 26/6. Same raider sank Greek STAMATIOS G EMBIRICOS, 3941 tons, about 26/9 while on passage from Mombasa to Colombo.
(D.S. 820, 3/12.)

China.

U.S. Liaison. — Your 1727/28. Concur C. in C. China's 0211/22 and will discuss with Admiral Hart.
(C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 0201Z/3 to Admty.)

/SI-KIANG ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

SI-KIANG (French)	Arrived 2nd. (Manila, 0217Z/3 to M. of W.T.)
Force G.	Force G. arrived Singapore 2/12. (S.O.I. Singapore, 0218/3 to Admty. etc.)
Nancowry Defences.	Admty. 2026/20/11 and C. in C. East Indies 1550/25/11. Intend to instal gun defence in Western entrance. This will entail retaining CLAN FORBES and (?Force ?Q) (?Colombo) for longer period. Estimated time will be signalled on completion of further R/C about to be carried out. (C. in C. China 0511Z/3 to Admty.)
ALBERT SARRAUT. (French)	Departure 3/12, Shanghai, of non-enemy Merchant Ships, and a complete copy has been sent to D.T.D. Admiralty. (Saigon 0820Z/3 to M. of W.T.)
RAMILLIES. REVENGE. ROYAL SOVEREIGN. RESOLUTION. WARSPITE.	Ref. 1637/8/11 (Hush, N.T. in W.D.) para.6 from S.O. Force G, and C. in C. E.I. 1316/30/11, para 2. When making this proposal ?I was under the impression that RAMILLIES would sail from England shortly after ROYAL SOVEREIGN. As she has not yet sailed and in view of situation I feel that arrival of further capital ships at Singapore cannot well be delayed till she reaches this station. 2. Local rumours put round by Japanese that our Eastern Fleet cannot contain more than 1 or 2 capital ships. 3. Also of very great importance to commence Fleet training of battleships. 4. I consider that REVENGE and ROYAL SOVEREIGN should join me at Singapore as soon as latter can arrive about 20/12 and propose that she should be released from escort work at the Cape now and proceed via Mauritius, Addu Atoll and Ceylon. 5. Consider also that advantage should be taken of passage of WARSPITE through the station to give appearance of strength by keeping her at Singapore for about a week, and request I may be informed of her probable date of arrival. 6. Request intended date of sailing of RAMILLIES and RESOLUTION. (C. in C. E.F. 1015Z/3 to Admty.)

/Japanese ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Japanese Minelayer.

Following received from Dairen telegram No.123 of 2/12. Shanghai please repeat to S.O.(I) (Grp. undec.). My Soviet colleague informs me 28/11 he saw a minelayer in Dairen harbour. She bore the name ZYOZAN MARU, tonnage about 1500, mounting 3 guns apparently 3" and carrying 28 mines on deck.
(Tokyo 1342/3 to F.O.)
N.I.D. Comment: No ship name ZYOZAN can be traced but it may be ZYUZAN, a 2,000 ton ship built for the American Great Lakes, now owned by the Japanese Kokoku Steamship Co.

America and West Indies.

H.X.161.

Opnav received following from Comtask Unit 4.1.6 at 1655Z/2, contacted one of relief escorts H.X.161. They will concentrate and relieve in morning.
(Opnav, 0255/3 to Admty. etc.)

H.X.163.

H.X.163 designation 4.1.3, BENSON (Senior), NIBLACK, TARBELL, EDISON, H.P. JONES.
(Opnav 0430/3, 2319/3 to Admty.)
My 0430/3, delete TARBELL add H.M.S. EFFINGHAM.
(Opnav, 1215/3 to Admty.)

ORANGELEAF defects.

ORANGELEAF quite unfit for sea. Permanent repairs can be effected here and will take not less than 8 weeks. Temporary repairs would be so extensive as to be little short of permanent and not recommended. Board of inquiry being held. For consideration whether F.E.O. or E.M. should fly from Bermuda to inspect without delay.
(Capt. i/c Jamaica 1108R/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1108R/3. Permanent repairs are to be taken in hand forthwith. Engineer Officer will not be sent from Bermuda. Services of E.O. of INDOMITABLE or ILLUSTRIOUS are to be obtained if considered necessary.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1842Q/3 to Capt. i/c Jamaica.)

KING MALCOLM.

S.C.50. Your 1430Z/2. No further news of KING MALCOLM. Ship reported missing.
(D.T.D., 1241A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/R.J. CULLEN ...

War Diary.

3.12.1941
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

R.J. CULLEN, O.N. 39.

O.N.39. TENACITY escorted by WINDERMERE has been sailed from Iceland to assist R.J. CULLEN. (U.S. C.N.O., 1250/3 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet etc.) R.J. CULLEN, Commodore's ship in O.N.39, reported at 1645/2 that she had lost her propeller. (D.O.R. 3/12.)

INDOMITABLE.

Your 1002/21/11. INDOMITABLE is to remain at Jamaica until further orders and continue working up.
(1st S.L., 1358A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MIMOSA.

Your 0123N/2 (N.T. in W.R.) is MIMOSA escorting O.N.(B) or is she making passage independently? If latter request E.T.A. St. Johns Newfoundland.
(C.C.N.F. 1413Z/3 to A.C.I.C.)

REX.
ROMA.
(Italian)

Intercepted letter quotes night report dated 25/11, from Overseas News Agency, Zurich, indicating that REX, ROMA have been pressed into service by Nazi insistence for maintaining communication lines to Libya. Report states majority of crew of 463 are Germans.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1439/3 to C. in C. Med.)

DUNEDIN survivors.

Your 2107R/2. (1) Most important that news of survivors should not leak until possible for Admty. to inform next of kin. Request names may be signalled at earliest moment and all steps taken to prevent any publication pending Admiralty announcement.
(2) Request information may be obtained from survivors whether they consider any more boats still unaccounted for.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1440A/3 to B.A.D.)

Jap shipping.

There are now no Japanese ships on west coast South and Central America. Last sailing NARUTO MARU from Tocopilla 29/11 for Yokohama.
(S.O.I. Jamaica 1520R/3 to Admty. etc., amended 1158R/6.)

Shipping Diversions.

Ref. A.M.1748A/5/9. As from 15/12 amend para. 5 (1) letters NO to read NJ (2) Add (a) EH, EQ, EX to give wider berth to suspected area near the route. (b) NK Route considered preferable from point of view of general U/Boat situation.
(D.T.D. 1532A/3 to Cs in C. W.A., and A.W.I. etc.)

/MEROPE ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

MEROPE. French Tanker MEROPE departed Tampico 28/11 for Cienfuegos.
(Opnav, 1708Z/3 to Admty.)

T.C.16
T.C.17. Your 1933R/1. Request you will inform Opnav that we accept these proposals and much appreciate U.S. co-operation.
2. A further signal suggesting detailed arrangement follows.
3. Request you will ask Opnav to issue necessary instructions to T.C.16 as regards route, R/V with U.S. Convoy and M.O.M.P.
(V.C.N.S. 1744A/3 to B.A.D.)
Convoy T.C.16 carrying Military Personnel will leave Halifax for U.K. on 14/12.
2. Convoy is composed of S.S. PASTEUR, speed 23 knots, destination Clyde, S.S. CUBA and S.S. LETITIA speed 15½ knots destination Liverpool.
3. Escort to vicinity of Iceland (C) will be provided by U.S. in conjunction with a U.S. Troop Convoy.
4. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail ships to join U.S. Convoy leaving New York on 12/12 for Iceland (C) as directed by Opnav. Opnav has been requested to issue necessary directions for R/V of the two convoys.
5. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail 4 destroyers to fuel at Iceland (C), meet convoy at M.O.M.P. and escort to U.K.
6. Opnav has been requested to indicate suitable M.O.M.P. which it is suggested should be in approx. 63° N. 24° W. and to inform Admty. of route and E.T.A. at M.O.M.P.
7. Admiralty will promulgate route from M.O.M.P. to U.K.
(V.C.N.S. 1812A/3 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C. in C. W.A.)

SURCOUF. A.M.0605/28/11 and your 1642/30/11. If personnel for SURCOUF do not arrive before she must sail for Halifax, request you will arrange for her to call Bermuda on her way to Freetown to pick them up.
(D.O.D.(F) 1917A/3 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DEVONSHIRE. Your 1750/2. Regretted that for operational reasons it has been necessary to postpone DEVONSHIRE's repairs.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2342A/3 to B.A.R.M.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

CAP DES PALMES. Departure 2/12. CAP DES PALMES Suya 8/12. (Consul Gen. Papeete, 0230Z/3 to Admty. D.N.I. Wellington 2252M/3 to Admty., S.O. Wellington 2337M/3 to F.N.F.L. London, Commandant, Defence, Noumea.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3.12.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CLAN MACBEAN. Following has been read: SSSS 24° 42' S., 06° 09' W., CLAN MACBEAN. Torpedo sighted. (Freetown W/T, 1310/3.)
Steer for position 005° W., of S., thence direct to P.
(C. in C.S.A., 1500/3, to CLAN MACBEAN.)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. (torpedoed 2/12.) Portuguese destroyer VOUGA left Ponta Delgada search for survivors from MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA, sunk a.m./2nd, 250 miles S.W. Island San Miguel. (N.A.Lisbon, 1528/3, to Admty.)

FJORD. From Aguilas to Gibraltar, was sunk, believed torpedoed at 1930/2 off Estepona. Further details will be signalled when known. (F.O.C.N.A. 1748A/3, to Admty.) (D.O.R.4/12.) Norwegian, 4032 tons. Position off Southern Spain.

GRELHEAD. Sunk off Punta Legri 1/12 (see North Atlantic, no mention of U/B.)

Submarines Reported.

1200. Eire authorities report sighting of S/M on surface at 1200/3, 8 miles west of Rossan Point Donegal. F.O.i/c Belfast is informed. (N.A.Dublin, 1315/3, to Admty.)

1310. Ref. Admty., message A.F.24° 42' S., 0 6° 0 9' W., at 1310/3.
(Freetown W/T 1317/3, to Admty.)
(D.D.I.C. 1525Z/3, to G.B.M.S. Area 6 A.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1356A/3, 1357A/3.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands.

An enemy merchant ship passed through the Straits of Dover last night and entered Boulogne. In the anticipation that she will sail again tonight down Channel 4 M.T.B's and 3 M.G.B's from Dover patrolled near Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 today, while BERKELEY and 4 M.L's, as well as one M.T.B. and two M.G.B's from Portland, were also ordered to endeavour to intercept her.

The monitors ROBERTS and EREBUS are on their way to Gibraltar (for the Mediterranean) escorted by SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY.

Rosyth was closed at 2210 on account of low visibility.

At 2045 last night in visibility of not more than 7 cables, 3 M.T.B's and 2 M.G.B's intercepted several enemy vessels off Gris Nez. Two M/V's were sighted, and also one Trawler which was severely damaged. Our forces were heavily engaged by gunfire and all were damaged. M.T.B. 218 seriously. But all returned safely to Dover with one rating killed and one officer and two ratings wounded.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today or tonight, on account of fog. Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks on shipping off the coast of Norway this morning and this evening.

Mining.

One Mine was exploded by Sweepers today off Spurn Point and two in the Bristol Channel; and explosions were reported near S.G.2 Buoy in Milford Haven and also off Portslade.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Fuel, Funchal. — Reference to a "gentleman's agreement" between himself and the Captain of the Port, Funchal, in regard to fuelling is made by N.C.S.O. Funchal in a telegram today.

South Atlantic.

Minesweepers. — Asking for 6 more minesweepers to be allocated to his station, C. in C. S.A. states there are only 4 L.L. sweepers for West African ports to cope with a S/M minelaying effort which has occurred once and might occur again.

Mediterranean.

6 Blenheims bombed and set on fire a M/V about 100 miles N.E. Derna today.

4 Blenheims today attacked San Giovanni, the Italian terminus of the Messina ferry, and ferry boats, with some effect.

A Malta aircraft reported at 1634 today having bombed and set on fire an enemy vessel in 34° 30' N. 23° 47' E.

Admty. today ordered 3 officers of SURCOUF (intercepted 25/11) to be detained at Aden. The Legal Adviser, Aden Govt., was doubtful as to the legality of this, but Admty. state it can be justified as a reprisal for the detention of British personnel by Vichy.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

There are strong indications that Vichy S.S. PERSE, late PIERRE L.D. will sail from Saigon tomorrow with NIVOSE and escorted by the sloop AMIRAL CHARNER.

U-Boat Campaign.

Survivors of the ASHBY who arrived in boats at Fayal today reported their ship torpedoed and sunk at 1715 G.M.T. 30/11, 170 miles S.S.E. of Flores Island.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Portsmouth Destroyers. Your 1013A/3. Refit of FERNIE should be carried out as already arranged provided 2 HUNTS are available for escort duty when refit is due to begin. (A.C.N.S. H. 1647A/4 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

LIVERPOOL. Whilst in hand for completion of refit the equipping LIVERPOOL for service in Arctic Waters should be advanced subject to no delay in date of completion. (D.O.D. H. 1654A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

PANTHER. PALADIN. On completion of satisfactory trials request you will sail PANTHER and PALADIN for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H. 1658A/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Co-operation with Russia.

Whalers for Russia. Your 1754B/3. Para. 1. No. Para. 2. All nine whalers are expected to sail during December January in P.Q. convoys. (A.C.N.S. H. 1811A/4 to Ad. Miles).

Russian Shipping Movements. My 1728A/1. Serial No. 1. MIKOYAN sailed Bushire 23/11, arrived Karachi 30/11. DEKABRIST arrived Iceland 25/11 for P.Q.6. (D.T.D. 1813/4 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.

ROBERTS. EREBUS. Am proceeding independently with EREBUS. SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY in company. At 0001Z/4th my P.C.S. are 055° 42' N. 015° 23' W, 202°, 6. (ROBERTS 0026Z/4).
Your 1430A/4. ROBERTS and EREBUS escorted by SCARBOROUGH and FRITILLARY are now proceeding in company to Ponta Delgada. E.T.A. 11/12. ROBERTS is being ordered to report E.T.A. Ponta Delgada and at R/V which you are requested to arrange after ships have fuelled. (C. in C. W.A. 1621A/4).
EREBUS 1140Z/3. Situation noon. Speed made good of 5 knots gives EREBUS one day's spare fuel. Respecting margin required these are arrangements for [illegible]oiling sea. Propose tanker from Azores or elsewhere be ready to meet in position latitude (? 40° or 41°) 30' N. 23° 25' W. at 1000N/10. Failing Oiler could BEVERLEY supply oil to EREBUS. Gear required for stirrup method 620 feet of 3 and a half or 5 inch hose with jack stay and stirrup. Additional escorts important. C. in C. W.A. 1546A/4. Am continuing as in my 0026/4 as this results in the greatest economy of fuel. E.T.A. 12/12. (ROBERTS 1916Z/4).

/NORMAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

NORMAN. — A.M. 1216A/1. NORMAN will not now be required to sail until p.m./8th. (A.C.N.S. F. 0043A/4 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

CAMPBELTOWN. WHITEHALL. — Intend sailing CAMPBELTOWN at 1300A/4 to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3. Speed 15 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry 0645A/4). My 1734A/3. Route for WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN to Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1058A/4).

H.50. — Intend sailing H.50 escorted by Torpedo Boat Z.5. from Lough Foyle 2000A/4th arriving Rothesay 0800A/5. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1058A/4).

A.M.C.'s. — My 1240/1st. Delete MONTCLARE.(ii) Add CHESHIRE for Freetown. (S.O.W.P. 1100A/4).

P.36. — My 1849/1 and 1701/3. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1431/4).

P.37. — Intend sailing P.37 escorted by STELLA PEGASI from Scapa at 1700/5 in accordance with F.O. (S) 0114A/3 as amended by F.O.(S) 1316A/3. (A.C.O.S. 1550A/4).

P.511. — P.511 arrived Lough Foyle with insufficient fuel to reach Londonderry and Battery Down. Owing to difficulties in supplying even small quantity of fuel in Lough Foyle delay occurred before she could reach Londonderry. Intend sailing both ships from Lough Foyle at 1000A/5. Fighter protection will be arranged. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1629A/4).

H.50. — Sailed Z.5 and H.50. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1945A/12).

P.35. — (1) Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE from Holy Loch at 1400A/5 to R/V with P.35 in vicinity of Tay South East approach buoy at 1000A/7. (Capt. S.3. 2153A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement off Gris Nez. M.T.B. 218 seriously damaged. M.T.B's 219, 221. M.G.B's 324, 328 damaged.

My 1958A/3 and 2151A/3. Coastal Forces attacked off Gris Nez. Preliminary reports show that attack was unsuccessful and that no ship larger than 2000 tons was sighted. It is hoped that air reconnaissance of Boulogne will be possible today.
(V.A. Dover 0155/A/4).
My 0155A. At 1913/3.
R.D.F. detected four enemy vessels one larger than the others 6 miles east of Calais steering westwards at 12 knots. M.T.B's 218, 219 and 220 supported by M.G.B's 324 and 328 were despatched and, despite visibility of not more than 7 cables, made a skilful interception off Gris Nez at 2045.
2. M.T.B.'s attacked from inshore side a vessel of about 2,000 tons. Low visibility seriously hampered the attack and no hits are claimed. M.G.B's report sighting a vessel of 5,000 tons with two small of 1500 tons and a trawler, all of which they engaged. Severe damage was inflicted on the trawler. All boats came under a considerable volume of enemy fire.
3. A second force of M.T.B's 44, 45, 47, and 48 was also despatchedto attack South of Boulogne but were denied an opportunity as enemy vessels entered Boulogne at 2130. These M.T.B's were then ordered to patrol west of Boulogne and M.G.B's 324 and 328 sent to join them. They were recalled at 0130/4 as there was no further enemy movement.
4. M.T.B. 218 was seriously damaged having all forward compartments flooded and W/T out of action but eventually reached harbour at 0225/4 after a search by M.T.B. 219 and M.L's 142 and 293 had proved unavailing in the low visibility. M.T.B's 219, 221 M.G.B's 324, 328 all received some damage. Casualties one rating killed and one wounded in M.G. B. 324. One officer in M.T.B. 218 and one rating in M.T.B. 221 wounded. None of wounded are serious cases. (V.A. Dover 1126A/4).

Interception of M/V.

1. An enemy merchant ship passed through the Straits of Dover last night and entered Boulogne. It is anticipated that she will sail again tonight to proceed down Channel.
2. V.A. Dover is requestedto arrange for available M.T.B.'s and M.G.B.'s to intercept enemy leaving Boulogne.
3. A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command is requested to arrange interception by aircraft between Fecamp and longitude 1° W.

/4.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of M/V. - Contd.

4. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange with C. in C. Portsmouth for torpedo armed M.L's from Portland to intercept enemy if attempting to enter Cherbourg.
5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to consider provision of Destroyer support for the M.L's if practicable. (A.C.N.S. H. 1428A/4).
M.L's 155, 157, 160, and 177 are to be placed under BERKELEY's orders joining her outside Portland Breakwater at 1830 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1534/4).
0815/5 BERKELEY and M.L's 155, 157, 160, 177 Portland Portsmouth. 1930/4 - 1000/5, M.T.B. 51, M.G.B. 51 and 56 Portland on patrol. 2000/4 - 1000/5, 3 A/S trawlers patrolling between St. Helens and Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1607A/4).
M.L's 140, 143 on O.D. 6 and 7 combined.
Four M.T.B's and three M.G.B's patrolling vicinity of Bullock Buoy. Expected time departure 1645. Time of return uncertain. (V.A. Dover 1642A/4).
A.M. 1428. M.T.B's 44.45.47.48 and M.G.B's 41. 324 and 328 will be on patrol in vicinity of Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 todsy. (V.A. Dover 1643A/4).
Proceed at 0930/5 to Portsmouth via Needles Channel, to act temporarily under orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1654/4 to TYNEDALE).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

Scapa arrival CUMBERLAND. (A.C.O.S. 0316A/4).

Patrols.

The following cruiser movements are to take place.
(a) SUFFOLK leaves Hvalfjord P.M./6 for patrol "White".
(b) NORFOLK leaves patrol "White" A.M./7 for Hvalfjord.
(c) ARETHUSA leaves patrol "Black" A.M./6 for Hvalfjord and returns to Scapa after fuelling bringing passengers from ONSLOW and mail.
(d) CUMBERLAND leaves Scapa p.m./6 for patrol "Black.
(ii) It is intended that BERWICK should proceed to Hvalfjord as soon as practicable after 10/12 and that SUFFOLK should then return to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1917A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

EMPIRE CHIVALRY. (Damaged 2/12)	At 1727/2. EMPIRE CHIVALRY mined in 052° 14' N. 001° 56' 30" E. Heavy explosion causing extensive superficial and hull damage, not serious. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0015A/4).
N.P.18A.	My 1602A/3. Operation has been postponed owing to weather. (V.A. Dover 0144A/4).
Thames Estuary.	Cancel my 0730A/3. (X.D.O. Sheerness 1030A/4).
Bristol Channel.	Exploded Red Mine 1425A/3 in 255° 1.7 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1040/4).
Milford Haven.	Two explosions in the vicinity of S.G.2. buoy were reported as having taken place at 0315/4. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1153/4). 2 Red Mines detonated by Sweeper at 0909A/4 and 0925A/4 respectively. Details. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1230A/4 and 1224A/5).
Harwich Area.	(1) At 1101/1 one Red Mine exploded by Sweeper in 51° 36' N. 1° 43' E. Details. (M/S 9 1608/4).
Operation "Tincture".	My 1357A/1 amend date to read P.M. December 8th. (D.M.S. 1627A/4 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
Operation Q.O.	Operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow. (C. in C. Nore 1834A/4).
Explosion off Portslade.	An explosion, from direction unknown, was heard by coastguards at Portslade and Shoreham at 1533/4. Vibration was felt at Portslade, but not at Shoreham. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1835 /4).
Spurn Point.	At 0917 today M/S drifter with "Skid" detonated a red magnetic mine in 277° S.P.P. one point six miles. (F.O. Humber 2030A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.12.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats. Possibility of E-boats Yarmouth Area. (C. in C. Nore 0055A/4).

Tanker. Tanker Norwegian flag bearing 090° position 57° 15' N. 12° 25' W. (A/C Duty M. 1255/4 to H.Q. 15 Group).

German petrol to Arctic Coast. Germans are reported to be sending 450 tons petrol per week by train from Oslo to Trondjhem and Narvik, whence it is being transported to Kirkenes and Petsamo in small craft. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1621/4).
O.I.C. Comment: This is the first evidence that small craft are being used for this traffic. The amount carried, 450 tons, is only a small portion of the 5,500 tons of oil fuel estimated enemy weekly requirements at Kirkenes and Petsamo.

Navigational.

Harwich. Port is now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0815A/4).

54A Buoy. No. 54A light-buoy damaged and light extinguished. Reported to be about half a mile to Southward of assigned position. (Hydrog 1449A/4)

Barrels Buoy. Light on Barrels light and whistle buoy off Carnsore Point reported extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1719/4).

Rosyth. Port of Rosyth closed owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth 2210/4).

Casualties and Defects.

BRIGHTON. R.A.(M)'s 1014/3. Asdic dome is leaking slightly will probably necessitate docking. (BRIGHTON 0947N/4).

CORONIA. (Kite balloon trawler) Arrived Oban with all blades broken off port propeller. No spare available. Vessel cannot be slipped at Gallanach. Able to proceed on one engine. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1630A/4).

/DAWN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.-Contd.

DAWN. (N.A.B.) In collision with water boat RUISSEAU at 1618 today in Methil Docks. DAWN is not considered seaworthy. No apparent damage to RUISSEAU. (N.O.I. C. Methil 1712/4).

SHEARWATER. SHEARWATER delayed by defects. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1726A/4).
My 1726A/4. SHEARWATER sailed. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1845A/4).

CALDWELL. CALDWELL left convoy independently for Iceland at 0500Z. He suffered minor damage during gale and parted rigging. Mast may have gone. Request he be told to report. VANOC has been hove to and will probably be late unless weather moderates. (VANOC 2000Z/4).

NORFOLK. My 2335A/2. (B) The following are the particulars of defects of NORFOLK. Details.
2. Temporary repairs carried out by Lyness. Eventually about 10 days in dock will be required for permanent repairs including repairs to breakwater but ship cannot be spared at present.
3. Damage was caused by heavy weather on structure previous to strain by near miss bombs about 28/5/41. (C. in C. H.F. 2006A/4).

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14. A.M. 0108A/26. W.S.14 sailing postponed to 8/12. 2. BERGENSFJORD will not sail.
3. Bristol Channel portion of convoy will be ready on 5/12 and should be sailed to Clyde to await sailing with main portion. (A.C.N.S. F. 0047A/4).
Admty. 0108A/26 November, para. 4. The W/T call sign for Section D ships if separated from main convoy will be F.P.D.7. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1115/4).
Admty. 0047A/4. After escorting Bristol Channel portion to Clyde, ULSTER QUEEN is to fuel and is to be sailed as required by N.O.I.C. Liverpool to escort ship from Liverpool to join main convoy at position A subsequently complying with my 1848A/3. (C. in C. W.A. 1226A/4).
A.M. 0029A/26, A.M. 0108A/26, and A.M. 0047A/4. As sailing of convoy is postponed RAMILLIES will join convoy in position "X" at 1200Z/12. Request you will adjust sailings from Clyde and Milford Haven accordingly. (D.O.D. H. 1310A/4 to RAMILLIES).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 4.12.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14. - Contd.

My 1507A/3. Amend destination to read Clyde E.T.A. Greenock 2100/6. (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1437A/4).
Admiralty's 0026A/25, 0029A/26 and 2030A/27 November, and B.A.R.M's 1822R/2 December. Cancel para. one of A.M. 0026A/25.
2. Owing to delay in sailing of convoy from U.K., destroyers will not now reach the Azores until P.M./14, where they will fuel.
3. ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE should be sailed in company to R/V with destroyers in approx. 45° N. 30° W. at about noon 17th.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested:
(a) To arrange R/V and onward routeing to U.K.
(b) To augment the escorts for the last part of the route. (A.C.N.S. H. 1456A/4).
A.M. 1810/30th November and C. in C. W.A. 1601/2.
S.S. PALACIO (speed 11½ knots) with a cargo of petrol should be sailed from Clyde in company with S.S. MALANCHA.
2. Ship is part of convoy W.S.14D.
(D.O.D. H. 1909A/4).
All vessels in W.S.14 should be watered to capacity before sailing and Masters instructed in writing that no water in excess of the quantities given on the respective certificates will be issued at Freetown unless justified by causes outside the Master's control such as mechanical breakdown or delay to convoy. If necessary daily consumption per head must be reduced below the six gallon limit on the voyage from Freetown to South Africa. Please pass to Military Authorities. (D. of S.T. 2325A/4 to D.S.T.O. Greenock).

W.P.B.76. Delayed by fog. BEDFORDSHIRE only will R/V with BROCKLESBY. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1300A/4).

Q.P.4. Admty. 1807A/30/11 and S.O.1st M/Fs 21350/7/11. LEDA, SEAGULL, (STELLA CAPELLA) and BUTE will form Ocean Escort Q.P.4. in addition SHEFFIELD. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1347C/4).

P.Q.5. Your 1628Z/3. Request you arrange arrival of convoy at Ice Edge as early as possible P.M. 7th. Icebreakers STALIN and LENIN will meet. Undesirable for escort fuel at Archangel. Lights and beacons arranged Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.B.N.O. North Russia. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2208C/4 to SHEFFIELD).

/S.L. 92.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

S.L.92. Warmest congratulations on the success of your first homecoming convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1805A/4 to Commodore Dibben, R.N.R.)

O.S.13. S.S. STRATHNAVER independent may be met approaching from S.W. during the night she has been warned of your vicinity. (C. in C. W.A. 1821A/4).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

REGENT.

Your 2208A/1. 48 hours early at all positions.
(REGENT 0001B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0536A/4 (N.T. in W.D.) My position 037° (? 15') N. 001° (? 45') E. at 0830B. Day run 170 miles.
(REGENT 0857B/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0857B/4. Adjust speed to pass through (L) at 2100/5 (M) 1100/6 and surface in position 147° Europa Point 15 to arrive off Europa Point not later than 1745. Essential to adhere to times ordered. Report if unable to do so owing to Air Patrol. Shift wireless watch forthwith. My 2208A/1 refers.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1108A/4 to REGENT.)

D.19 Sweep.

Your 0810A. Sweep towards St. Vincent returning to your area by dark.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1023A/4 to Capt. D. 19.)

DEPTFORD
ARROW.

(1) DEPTFORD and one corvette to enter harbour at 1600. (2) ARROW proceed 1800 and assume U patrol.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1135A/4 to STORK, ARROW.)

TARN.
(attacked by S/M 4/11.)

Copy of official report by Capt. French Tanker TARN is being sent by Bahrein. Following are important points.
(1) Visibility at time of attack was fairly good.
(2) TARN was 4½ miles north of Ras El Amouch.
(3) After being called upon to stop Capt. of TARN opened fire first "in accordance with instructions to attack and to signal presence of all submarines seen within 20 miles of African Coast".
(4) Although Nationality of S/M was not definitely recognized Capt. signalled he was being attacked by a British S/M.
2. No definite information of Nationality of S/M has yet been obtained but rumours are current in Algiers that it is now believed to have been Italian.
(Consul Gen. Tangier, 1225/4 to S.O.I.Gibraltar.)
N.I.D. Comment - French Tanker TARN reported to Toulon on 4/11 that she was being attacked by a British submarine in 36° 40 N. 2° 30 E. Vessel has since been reported as having arrived at Algiers. No British submarine was in vicinity at time of attack.

BRADFORD.

Your 2245A/24/11, para.3. Request R/V for BRADFORD. Intend sailing her tomorrow 5th to fuel (?Ponta Delgada) 9/12 prior to meeting.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/4 to C. in C. W.A.)

/SEVERN ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

SEVERN. Ref. 2359N/2 from S.O.(I) Freetown. Request exact time of sailing of SEVERN and confirmation E.T.A. in position (f).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1354A/4 to C. in C. S.A.)

S/M O.21.
BRADFORD. My 2236A/1. Netherlands S/M O.21 sails 5th approx. time of passing through 043° 00' N. 009° 40' W. 0200A/8 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.(S) is requested to signal onward route and bombing restrictions.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1436A/4 tc Admty.)
O.21 leaving Gibraltar 1100A/5th escorted by BRADFORD as far as 008° W. (route) O.21 will dive by day on 6/12 between (B) and (C) thence proceeding to (D) (E) and 43° 00' N. 09° 40' W. on the surface, 12 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1620/4 to S. and A., N.A. Stn.)
Your 1436A/4. Request O.21 be routed to pass through position L. 43° N. 13° W. at about 0600A/8 thence on surface at C.O's discretion to position M. 46° N. 13° W. thence submerged by day through position N. 49° 30' N. 11° W. to R/V on 10/12 in vicinity Bishops Rock and proceed thence to Holy Loch as ordered by S.3.
2. T.B.R. arranged 25 miles either side of line joining positions L and M. from 2000/7 to 1200/9 S.B.R. 25 miles either side of line joining positions M and N from 0001/8 to 2359/10 and line joining positions N and Bishops Rock from 1800/8 until further notice.

UNA 3. UNA leaves 50° N. 06° 30' W. at about 1900/7 submerged by day through 49° 20' N. 10° 30' W. 46° N. 10° 30' W. and 45° N. 09° W. for patrol between latitudes 42° N. 09° W. for patrol between latitudes 44° N. and 45° N. between longitudes 09° W. and 07° W.
(F.O.S. 2153A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ELISABETH HENDRIK FISSER. (German) Left Savona 3/12 for Sete and Valencia, 5,300 tons ammonium sulphate. Spanish CARANZA statutory list E.T.A. Genoa from Valencia 10/12 shipments Norwegian destination.
(D.N.I., 1509/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLYDE
O.24
OLYMPUS
REGENT
URSULA Estimated positions of submarines 1900/4, all proceeding submerged by day (A) CLYDE off Oran (b) O.24 037° 20' 004° 00' E. through 037° 36' 007° 00' thence 073°. (c) OLYMPUS 037° 45' 011° 36' through 038° 15' 009° 00' thence 296°. (d) REGENT 037° 15' 000° 30' E. through 037° 20' 000° 00' thence 234°. (e) URSULA 037° 53' 005° 00' E. 256°.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1636A/4 to S/Ms named.)

/O.21 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

0.21. My 0026A/3 and F.O.C.N.A's 2236A/1 0.21 is to proceed to Holy Loch in first instance for fitting of new tripper and torpedo discharge trials with new torpedoes.
(F.O.S., 1653A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Fuel, Funchal. Your 1616/3. A gentleman's agreement definitely exists between Captain of the Port and myself. For your private information, stocks of coal as signalled in weekly return to (?S.O.(I) Gibraltar) 1/12 are 3431 tons, including nominal Portuguese Government reserve 3075 tons and commitments 228 tons. In addition there are 3000 tons American coal reserved exclusively for Swiss Govt. ships now being discharged ex Greek ship MOUNT LYCABET.
(N.C.S.O. Funchal, 1659/(4?) to N.A. Lisbon.)

URSULA. Your 1108A/4 and 2208A/1. My position 1900A/4 037° 42' 004° 00' E. Permission is requested to pass points P and L 24 hours early to arrive Gibraltar 0900A/8.
(URSULA, 1853A/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation "Justice". If executive signal "Carry out operation Justice" is received from Admiralty S.S. MALANCHA and S.S. PALACIO escorted by JASMINE and ROCKROSE are to proceed to Gibraltar passing through (C) 45° N. 23° W. if not already reached, thence (G) 38° N. 20° W. (H) 35° 30' N. 15° W.
2. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange for such additional escort as he considers necessary.
3. If executive signal in para 1 is not received by 1200Z/12 ships and escort are to continue to Freetown in accordance with C. in C. Western Approaches 1601/2 (not to all addressees.)
4. F.O.C. North Atlantic is requested to arrange for early onward passage to Freetown of ROCKROSE and JASMINE if they call Gibraltar.
5. N.O.I/c Londonderry pass to ROCKROSE and JASMINE.
(D.O.D.(F) 2243A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., ROCKROSE, JASMINE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Minesweepers. Would it be possible for say six of the motor minesweepers shown on pages 14 and 15 of blue list of 18/9/41, to be allocated to this station? Understand they are LA SA. There are only 4 LL Sweepers for the West African Ports to cope with a S/M minelaying effort which has occurred once and might occur again.
(C. in C. S.A., 0017N/4 to Admty.)

Lagos. Need for aircraft assembly organisation in addition to Takoradi.
(C. in C. S.A. 0031N/4 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

BIRMINGHAM
ASTER
MARGUERITE
ECHODALE. ASTER pass to ECHODALE. R.A.S.A.D. 2339Z/3 (N.T. in W.R.) BIRMINGHAM is to proceed Simonstown to fuel. ASTER and MARGUERITE are to fuel from ECHODALE and then proceed Simonstown pass through position F. ECHODALE is then to return to Freetown. Route will be signalled.
(C. in C. S.A., 0235N/4 to R.A.S.A.D. etc.)
Your 2341Z/3 and my 0235N/4. At your discretion I should like BIRMINGHAM to carry out aircraft R/C of area round position F on 6/12 from as long range as possible informing DERBYSHIRE and ASTER of result if any. BIRMINGHAM then to proceed to Simonstown for fuel. On occasion of breaking W/T silence P.C. and S. should be reported.
(C. in C. S.A. 1257N/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)
My 2145N/2. Should a U-boat be sighted at a distance you should approach bow on in order to conceal silhouette and simulate German recognition signal as follows with a view to delaying submarine diving until you are within effective gun range:- (a) Fire simultaneously one white and one red or green rocket. (b) Flash the single letter F several times on 10 inch S P at U-boat. Should U-boat reply the single letter Y is then to be flashed several times.
(C. in C. S.A. 1425N/4 to ASTER, MARGUERITE.)
My 0235N/4. When 100 miles clear of ECHODALE report (A) Time ECHODALE proceeded in accordance with my 1135N/4/11. (B) Anticipated time of arrival vicinity of position F.
(C. in C. S.A., 1427N/4 to ASTER.)

/AUSTRALIA ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

AUSTRALIA. In view of A.M.1655/3 cancel my 2133/3 (N.T. in W.R.) It is hoped to advance AUSTRALIA's date of readiness for service.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 05073/4 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)
My 0507/4. AUSTRALIA will sail from Simonstown p.m./5 in accordance with A.M. 1655/3.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1513/4 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.)

CUMBRAE. My 1646/3 (N.T. in W.R.) CUMBRAE sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 06322/4 to C. in C. E.I. etc.)

STANLEY S.L.94. Arrival a.m./3, departure 1700, STANLEY for convoy S.L.94.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 0837N/4 to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

DUNEDIN survivors. Your 2107R/2. Could NISHMAHA be asked for position she picked up survivors?
(C. in C. S.A. 1227N/4 to B.A.D.)
W.D. Note.- Answer already given on this point by B.A.D. 1157R/4 to Admty., see American and West Indies. Admty reply 1113A/5.
My 1729/28. Survivors of DUNEDIN were picked up by U.S. merchant ship on 27/11 but I have not yet got the position. You should continue search in conjunction with patrol in case there are some more.
(C. in C. S.A., 1531N/4 to DEVONSHIRE.)
W.D. Note.- 2107/2 from B.A.D. Washington refers.

Orders to DERBYSHIRE. DORSETSHIRE sank a German supply ship in position (f) 027° 53' S. 003° 55' W. at about 1700Z/1/12.
2. Some 500 survivors got away in boats and it is thought U-boats may be in company with these.
3. ASTER and MARGUERITE from about 016° 20' S. 013° 00' W. are proceeding to pass through vicinity position (f) arriving there 8/12 and carrying out search for boats then proceeding to Simonstown.
4. DERBYSHIRE is to proceed to patrol area to South Westward (f), keeping at least 200 miles from this position.
5. Object interception German blockade runner which might be diverted from Cape Horn area to rescue survivors.
(C. in C. S.A., 1453N/4 to DERBYSHIRE.)

/DAUNTLESS ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

DAUNTLESS. Your 1700/3. After Mombasa DAUNTLESS should call Durban and Simonstown to fuel. DAUNTLESS is requested to report date from Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1517Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

ALCANTARA. B.A.D. Washington's 1546R/2. Proceed direct to Newport reporting E.T.A. Cape Henry. (C. in C. S.A., 1807N/4 to ALCANTARA.)

U/Bs. Positions in S.A. (C. in C. S.A., 1839N/4.) See U-Boat Campaign.

ALBATROSS. My 1301N/14/11 your 1514/12/12 (sic) and my 1853N/1/12. ALBATROSS can be taken in hand at Gibraltar. Propose VIDETTE accompany RANGITATA to vicinity of Bathurst and after fuelling escort ALBATROSS to Gibraltar. (C. in C. S.A., 1845N/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

KAJAK (Esthonian) Your 21312/2. S.S. KAJAK. No objection. (D. of S.T. 1933A/4 to S.O.I. Montevideo.) Your 1441/30/11 and 2131/2. Voyage is approved as vessel is destined ultimately for Russia. Report under what flag KAJAK sails. (D.E.W.D. 1951A/4 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

S.T.10. Departure 4/12 with S.T.10, BRIDGEWATER, WILD SWAN, FREESIA, CLOVER, NIGELLA. (S.O.I. Freetown 2325N/4 to Admty. etc.)

Mediterranean.

IRIDIO MANTOVANI. Now known that the Italian tanker hit by A/C and finally sunk by AURORA and Force K. on 1/12 off Kerkenah Island was IRIDIO MANTOVANI, of 10,542 tons, instead of 6500 tons as first reported. (D.S. 821.)

/Enemy ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Enemy Destroyers TRUSTY.

3 Italian destroyers GRECALE class in 037° 43'020° 22' at 0810B/3 course and speed 310° 26 knots. Torpedoes missed in close attack. Consider torpedoes run under northbound light athwart ships. (weather report).
TRUSTY 0002B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

Libya.

Military Situation Reports.
(C. in C. M.E., 0040/4, 1725/4 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Iraq - Syria.

From M.E. Defence Committee. Inadequacy of communications Iraq - Syria. Proposal.
(C. in C. M.E., 0245/4 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

T.A.1. FARNDALE.

T.A.1 fast sailing 1800/5. Cancel my 1334/3 and proceed (? Mersa Matruh) to await orders from S.O. Force I.
(R.A. Alexandria, 0326B/4 to FARNDALE.)

HASTY defects.

Have developed serious vibrations. Am returning to harbour.
(HASTY 0805B/4 to R.A.D. Med., Capt. D.14.)

MIKOYAN.

Your 1926Z/2. No news of MIKOYAN.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1005B/4 to Admty.)

Enemy M/V bombed.

G.25. One merchant vessel F.J.G.N. 1637 050 7.
(Med A/C duty J. 1100/4 to 201 Group)
Position indecypherable, but see 1346/4.
Have attacked enemy E Y with bombs dive and estimate 3 near misses. Am returning to base.
(Med A/C duty J. 1140/4 to 201 Group.)
R/C aircraft reports sighting enemy M/V in 034° 16' N. 023° 37' E. course 050° speed 7 knots T.O.O. 1100/4.
(V.A. Malta 1346B/4 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Movements.

Arrival 3/12 HEYTHROP, AVON VALE. Departure 3/12 ERIDGE, FARNDALE Greek S/M TRITON. Arrival 4/12 FLAMINGO, YARRA. Departure 4/12 JERVIS, HERO, HAVOCK.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1138B/4.)

/Derna ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Derna Patrol, D.14.

My 2045B/3. Carry out Derna patrol commencing about 0300/5. Italian destroyers were observed to arrive Derna from N.W. about 0700/2 and left about 0800 after jettisoning cargo. Conduct your patrol accordingly. Dawn R/C by Blenheim A/C in Derna area is being arranged. W/T frequency 6540 Kc/s per sec. If nothing sighted leave area by 0800/5 make detour to N.E. and proceed to carry out A/S sweep in area North of Sidi Barrani. Conserve fuel to enable Derna patrol to be repeated night 5th/6th if required.
(C. in C. Med., 1152B/4 to Capt. D.14.)

SURCOUF officers.

Your 1354/3. These men are to be detained for the time being. This can be justified as reprisal for detention of British personnel by Vichy.
(Hd. of M., 1338A/4 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Soviet Ships from Black Sea.

Following is a repetition of my 1356B/4. Addressed A.N.A. Istanbul, rep. Adm. Miles, Admty, N.A. Ankara (Begins) Your 1718/2. Consider oil cargoes in tankers should most certainly be discharged in Turkey, there is no necessity to bring any balance (?at all). T.O.O. 1356B/4 (ends). Admiralty pass to Adm. Miles and N.A. Ankara.
(C. in C. Med., 1402B/4 to Admty.)

Sfax air R/C.

Following from Chiefs of Staff to Cs. in C. M.E. and Med., rep. V.A. Malta, A.O.C. Malta. There are reports of a considerable number of escorted French ships passing down Tunisian coast to Sfax. As it is suspected that these are carrying war materials destined for Tripoli, air R/C of Sfax harbour and roads leading from there to Tripolitanian border should be carried out at an early date. The presence of an undue amount of shipping in Sfax or movements of road traffic towards Tripolitanian border should be reported immediately.
(1st S.L. 1415A/4 to C. in C. Med.)

UPHOLDER P.31 Reports.

UPHOLDER reports at 0754/27/11 in 37.50 15.40 fired 4 torpedoes at 7000 ton laden westbound tanker escorted by 2 destroyers, speed thought largely under-estimated, torpedoes missed.

/2 ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

UPHOLDER P.31 Reports - contd.

(2) At 0437 sighted 3 cruisers and about 5 destroyers steering 030°, UPHOLDER 050° on port bow. While closing, (? enemy) altered straight towards UPHOLDER, dived for attack by periscope but frustrated by moon setting.
(3) At 0501B/1/12 in 39.13 17.29 fired 4 torpedoes by asdic at rear ship of these cruisers but sound subsequently indicated range too close, enemy passing nearly over head. Prolonged effort to pass enemy report failed.
(4) P.31 reports at 1705/29 in 39.20 17.33, when deep keeping listening watch with sea (?pivot), heard H.E. North Eastward and came to periscope depth.
(5) At 1719 fired dispersed salvo A at centre ship of 3 southbound cruisers escorted by NAVIGATORI class destroyers, range 4500, course 165°, speed 20 knots. Result torpedoes hit at 3' 10", 3' 25", 4' 05" from firing first. Course accurately estimated from destroyer passing overhead.
(6) Salvo consisted of 3 Mark VIII, 1 Mark IV, set to 8 and 10 feet 40 knots, no destroyer observed between P.31 and cruiser on firing but conditions rough and observation difficult.
(7) Slow H.E. heard in direction of target until 1726 when explosion occurred of 3 times intensity of torpedo detonations, when H.E. ceased abruptly.
(8) Remaining ships proceeded at high speed. P.31 made periscope observations 1800 but too dark to see, then withdrew (? preparatory to) reloading. Considerable A/S activity by SPICA class torpedo boats in centre of Gulf of Taranto during latter half of patrol.
(Capt. S. 10, 1620B/4 to Capt. S.1.)

Russians Black Sea.

Adm. Isakov left by air this morning for Sevastopol I do not think he is to be C. in C. Black Sea but has gone to investigate the situation on the spot. (Adm. Miles, 1621D/4 to Admty.)

OITUZ and 1 ship sunk (?).

C.2 report states that in addition to the Roumanian PELES and REGELE CAROL, already reported sunk by Russians in Black Sea. OITUZ, 2630 tons, and another Roumanian ship, name not specified, have been sunk. (D.S. 821, 4/12.)

M/V hit by A/C.

Have attacked enemy vessel with bombs level and estimate one hit. Ship on fire. Position of enemy is 34° 30' N. 23° 47' E.
(A/C 45 Sq. duty L, 1634/4 to 201 Group.)

/Balloons ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Balloons in M/Vs.

Request information on recent experience of flying Mark VI balloons from merchant ships. Particularly request information on armament.
(A.H.Q. Egypt, 1714/4 to Air Min.)

Black Sea.

Situation report. Military situation at Sevastopol satisfactory (? although) town is continually shelled. Certain German units have been (? replaced) by Roumanians. (2) Enemy digging in on Kerch Peninsula and (? fortifying) coast. No apparent (? intention) at present to cross Straits. (3) Black Sea fleet inactive. No further damage. (4) Tuapse slowly (? becoming) organized as base.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 1714/4 to Admty.)

San Giovanni attacked.

4 Blenheims out to attack train ferry boats at San Giovanni, Italian terminus Messina ferry. No ferry boats when 1 aircraft attacked 1 2000 ton V. off Messina, no hits. Large tugs ferrying from Italy across Straits machine gunned, crews jumped overboard. Remainder attacked railway sidings San Giovanni.
(H.Q. Malta, 1750/4.)

THRASHER.

Establish patrol by dawn 5th in vicinity of 039° 30' 017° 30'.
(S.1, 1915B/4 to THRASHER.)

Intelligence Areas.

Your 1204/20. Concur in division suggested. Steps now being taken to provide extra staff requested in F.O.C. N.A.'s 2246/17. Change in Intelligence area will not be made until increase in establishment has been effected.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2307A/4 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 4.12.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.A.10. NEVASA with troops and stores for Aden and Suez sailed 0200Z/4 due Aden 0900Z/9 routed through N. 016° 45' 059° 45' O. 013° 45' 050° 50' knots 13 (13) (16) Independent, 1.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0206Z/4 to Admty.)

GLASGOW. Arrival at 0200Z/4.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0220G/4 to Admty., etc.)

DAUNTLESS. Colombo departure 0430Z/4.
(S.O.I. Colombo, 0532Z/4 to Admty.)

REVENGE. Departure REVENGE.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0651Z/4 to Admty., etc.)

Flying Boats. Your 1144Z/18/10. Air Ministry state that in view of deliveries of American flying boats falling far short of expectations they now have little hope of augmenting long-range R/C air forces on East Indies station before late 1942. If Far Eastern War breaks out reallocation of all air R/C forces would of course be undertaken.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1746A/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

3rd B.S., Ammunition. Your 0620Z/1 (N.T. in W.D.) Not understood why REVENGE did not embark 6 months practice in conformity with standing orders nor why omission to do so was not reported on proceeding abroad. (2) Expenditure of service ammunition not exceeding 24 rounds is approved. (3) Distribution of 15" practice ammunition is:- Singapore 16. E. Mediterranean nil. A.S.I.S. - Kheti 37. (4) RAMILLIES, ROYAL SOVEREIGN and RESOLUTION each carry 6 months allowance of practice all natures.
(A.C.N.S. (W), 1810A/4 to C. in C. E.I.)

Italians, E. Africa. Chiefs of Staff telegram 146 re repatriation of Italians from East Africa. Expected that Italian Govt. will make available GIULIO CESARE, DUILIO, SATURNIA, VULCANIA and 2 tankers from Metropolitan Italy. Details of arrangements.
(Hd. of M., Approved 1st Lord, 2006A/4 to F.O.C.N.A., C's in C. S.A., E.I., etc.)
(See Lion Copy.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

French Shipping. — Following is an extract from a Fairmiss Telegram:- KHAI DINH (S.L.1940). ALAMARTINE (S.L.1939). (? 0355Z/4 to M. of W.T.)

Port Defences. — Particulars of defence material available. (D. of L.D., 2027A/4 to C. in C. E.F.) See Lion Copy.

ENDEAVOUR. — Your 0501Z/19/11. Request confirmation of fitness for Service before C.O. and instruments are sent out. Due to leave U.K. about mid-December. (Hydrographer, 2151A/4 to C. in C. China.)

PERSEE, NIVOSE, AMIRAL CHARNER. — There are strong indications of PERSEE late PIERRE L.D., accompanied by NIVOSE and escorted by AMIRAL CHARNER, sailing from Saigon 5/12. (D.N.I., 2251A/4 to C's in C. China, E.I., etc.)

U.S. Liaison. — Your 0201/3. Assume you will link this matter up with C. in C. China's 1315/16/11. (Head of M., 2305A/4 to C. in C. E.F.)

MARECHAL JOFFRE (French) — Departure Manila. (N.C.S.O. Shanghai, 2356/4 to M. of W.T.)

America and West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT. — Ref. N.O.I.C. Hong Kong's 0315Z/19. PRINCE ROBERT arrived Honolulu on schedule. (C.O.P.C., 0526Z/4 ? to Admty., etc.)

S.C.56. — Estimated that Commodore and 11 ships escorted by RESTIGOUCHE, BITTERSWEET and CHICOUTIMU will be about 18 hours late at M.O.M.P. Two corvettes are being detailed to meet this portion. (D.T.D., 0731Z/4 to Opnav.)

/DUNEDIN....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DUNEDIN survivors.

Your 1440/3. U.S. Authorities do not wish NISHMAHA to break W/T silence. Suggest vessel be boarded on arrival at Trinidad to obtain further information and to request master to warn all on board to be reticent.
(B.A.D., 1157R/4 to Admty.)

DUC D'AUMALE (French)

Arrived La Guaira from Caripito 3/12.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 1257R/4 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SNOWBERRY, ARROWHEAD.

Halifax departures SNOWBERRY and ARROWHEAD in accordance with C.C.N.F's 1315Z/27.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1458Z/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, etc.)

Task Force 3.

Following are standard patrol routes of U.S. Task Force 3.
(a) When southbound from Caribbean Sea area pass through 010° N. 053° W. Equator at 035° W. to Recife.
(b) From Recife through 005° S. 033° W. 015° N. 026° W. 010° N. 030° W. 005° S. 033° W. or Recife.
(c) When northbound to Caribbean Sea area pass through 005° S. 033° W. 007° 20' N. 054° 40' W. to Trinidad.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 16190/4 to S.O.I. Kingston, N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

SURCOUF.

Leave Bermuda on completion of practice on 7/12 and proceed by most direct route to Halifax. Keep normal watch on Louisburg broadcast throughout, shifting to read W S routine. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to arrange T.B.R. informing SURCOUF of arrangements made.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 16230/4 to SURCOUF. Amended 12420/6.)

W.S.12X.

A.M. 1721/24/11 para. 2 (b) and your 2145/26/11. Request you will confirm it is intended that U.S. Destroyers will escort W.S.12X out of Capetown and if so how far to the Eastward.
2. DORSETSHIRE is providing cruiser escort from Capetown instead of AUSTRALIA previously detailed.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1648A/4 to B.A.D.)
Your 1648A/4. Navy Dept. are prepared to give destroyer escort to W.S.12X for 24 hours out of Capetown. All ships escorts are urgently required for other service and Navy Dept. therefore request stay of convoy in Capetown be reduced to the absolute minimum required for refuelling and re-victualling.
Please confirm.
(B.A.D., 1807R/4 to Admty.)

/DIDO...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 4.12.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

DIDO — Owing to thick weather DIDO sailed without doing S. Amo? (corrupt group) trials. (B.A.R.M., 1800R/4 to Admty.)

B.Y.T.1. — Your 2033R/3 and your 1527R/4. Request salvage tender B.Y.T.1 may be sailed for Trinidad by most direct route via Yucatan Channel. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1902Q/4 to B.A.D.)

WEST CHETAC. — Your 1151B/28 (1155 intended) WEST CHETAC verbally ordered to call at Capetown. U.S. Navy Dept. recent broadcast orders all Merchant Ships proceed to Durban which orders may have been followed by WEST CHETAC. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2011Z/4 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

Suspicious Ship. — Unidentified armed merchantman seen by Pan-American Airways Pilot 1015/4, 16° - 12' N. 94° - 36' W. course northwest. Information in Dept. shows Norwegian armed SAMUEL BAKKEL 4700 tons and BRITISH SALVADOR 1100 tons in this vicinity. (Opnav, 2053Z/4 to Admty.)

Martinique Intelligence. — Fort De France 29/11, B.2. French Tanker VAR left Fort De France 28/11 for Caripito to take on 8,000 tons fuel oil of which she is to discharge 5,000 tons at St. Thomas. (B.A.D., 2107R/4 to S.O.I. Kingston.)

VAN KINSBERGEN. — Following is intended programme for Netherlands G.T.S. VAN KINSBERGEN. Leave Curacao 10/12 visit St. Martin, Saba and St. Eustatius, proceed thence Trinidad to fuel arriving 16/12. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2132Q/4 to Admty., etc.)

INDOMITABLE. — Your 1358A/3. Visit of an aircraft-carrier would be of great value to training of observers at R.N.A.S. Piarco. If working up and subsequent programme permits suggest INDOMITABLE should spend 2 days at Trinidad before sailing for Gibraltar. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2142Q/4 to Admty.)

Routes for Returning Ships. — Proposed to instruct ships which for any reason have to return to U.K. when West of 10° W. from outward convoys to proceed on their reverse route and report position and speed by W/T. This instruction is intended to facilitate air protection and plotting. Request your remarks on advisability of a similar procedure for ships returning from H.X. and S.C. convoys. (D.T.D., 2230A/4 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/STRATHMORE..

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

STRATHMORE. S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 1242R/4.
Request reason why STRATHMORE was sailed direct to U.K observing numbers exceeded those allowed by A.M. 1936/25/9, substance of which passed to you in my 1406Q/8/10. Request Admiralty state whether diversion to Halifax for convoy is desired.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2242Q/4 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)
Reply: 1019/6.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

4.12.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. (torpedoed 2/12.)

My 1032/2 Portuguese Destroyer VOUGA returned to Ponta Delgada. Nothing sighted. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1104/4.)
Reported torpedoing of GKXJ MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA.

ASHBY. (torpedoed 30/11.)

4/12, arrived in ships' lifeboats Chief Officer and 32 crew ex S.S. ASHBY. Reports torpedoed 1715 G.M.T. 30/11, 170 miles S.S.E., Flores Island. No information Master and 16 crew, but all believed to have been (? lost). Also believed secrets sunk with ship. From Vice Consul: With co-operation Capt. of Port and Capt. of Portuguese Destroyer LIMA, latter generously took with him Chief Officer 29 men and will transfer this evening to Portuguese CARVALHO ARAUJO which left earlier for Lisbon via Ponta Delgada. 3 seamen detained in hospital Fayal, believe not serious cases. Following reported missing (list).
(V.C., Fayal, T.H.I., 2355/4.)
Outward bound in ballast from Middlesboro' to Freetown. Had been in O.S.12? (D.S.,823, 6/12.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1327A/4, 1330A/4.)

South Atlantic.

Recent D/F bearings as assessed at Freetown indicate: (1) U-boat within 60 miles of 022° S., 011° W., at 1831Z/2 Southbound, 65%, reliable.
(2). One within 100 miles of 025° S., Greenwich Meridian at 2120Z/2, 80% reliable.
(3). One within 80 miles of 026° S., 004° W., at 1936Z/2, 70% reliable.
(4). One within 100 miles of 020° S., 028° W., at 0223Z/2, 60% reliable.
(5). One within 80 miles of 016° S., 011° W., at 0439Z/2, Southbound, 60% reliable.
(6). One within 120 miles of 022° S., 006° W., at 2237Z/3, 65% reliable.
(C. in C.S.A.,*1839N/4, to S.A. Stn.)
* 1632N/4

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Rosyth was reopened at 0652 today. Harwich was closed on account of fog from 0746A to 0924A.

The enemy merchant ship which entered Boulogne on the night 3rd/4th is now thought to be possibly an Armed Raider and is expected to proceed tonight to Cherbourg. In order to intercept her accordingly the destroyer TYNEDALE with M.L's 155, 157, 160, and 177 will patrol tonight to the northward of Cape Barfleur, while M.T.B. 51 and M.G.B. 314 will be operating off Cape de la Hague in case the enemy tries to proceed beyond Cherbourg. M.T.B's 219, 47, and 48, with M.G.B's 324 and 330 will also be patrolling near the Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 today until midnight.

Severe frosts having made it necessary to sail LEDA from Archangel at 1450C today for Murmansk, direct W/T communication with Archangel is interrupted and is not expected to be re-established for 48 hours. S.B.N.O. North Russia considers that it has now become essential to instal remote reception equipment at Polyarno.

WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN left Milford Haven at 1553A today for Gibraltar.

SEAWOLF left Murmansk at 1439C for a patrol off Kongsfiord between 29° and 30° 20' E.

C. in C. H.F. reports that RODNEY has had only 21 days leave since the outbreak of the war and proposes to relieve her by RENOWN.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out no operations today and tonight. Coastal Command aircraft carried out successful attacks on shipping off the Frisian Islands and the Dutch coast.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Enemy minelaying is suspected in the main channels north and south of Sheringham Buoy. C. in C. Nore gave orders this morning that the main channels are to be swept as early and frequently as possible.

North Atlantic.

Pending further information, Convoy H.G.76 is to be held at Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

C. in C. S.A. considers there are 4 U-Boats in the area where supply ship was sunk on 1/12, 2 of which might have fuelled from her. Apparently they are expecting another supply ship south of St. Helena, perhaps a fruit ship from a French port. Patrols are to be maintained accordingly and CILICIA will be detached from W.S.14 and rputed to Freetown west of Verde through H.34

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert.

Capt. D.14 (JERVIS) with HERO, HASTY and HAVOCK carried out the Derna patrol early this morning. Dawn R/C by Blenheims was carried out in the Derna area. After leaving the patrol D.14 carried out an A/S sweep off Sidi Barrani.

/A U-Boat....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Libya & Western Desert. (Contd.)

A U-Boat sighted heading for Bardia from N.W. is thought to be carrying supplies for the garrison. Capt. D.14 was at 1237B/5 ordered to attempt to intercept, leaving the area at 0600/6 to return to Alexandria.

Owing to the weather, an offensive sweep by Blenheims off Derna tonight was cancelled at 1559B/5.

Malta.

26 enemy aircraft approached Malta between 2007/4 and 0457/5, of which 4 crossed the coast. Bombs demolished 11 houses and caused civilian but no Service casualties.

Owing to operational difficulties it is not intended to fly any additional naval aircraft to Malta from the west until a modern carrier is available at Gibraltar.

CHAKDINA sunk.

Armed Boarding Vessel CHAKDINA was sunk by aircraft torpedoes at 2135/5 in 32.11 N., 24.30 E., when returning to Alexandria with about 300 British wounded and 100 prisoners. FARNDALE and THORGRIM rescued about 200 survivors.

East Indies.

Air Forces.

Responsibility for the operational control of air forces in Iraq, Persia, the Persian Gulf and Arabia is defined in an Air Ministry telegram today.

Search for U/B's, Laccadives.

As reports from Marmagoa indicate the possible presence of U/B's or supply ships, C. in C. E.I. intends to search for unauthorised ships in the Laccadive Islands and the neighbourhood of Goa. He has withdrawn GLASGOW from her escort duty in Bay of Bengal. R.I.N. is being asked to lend LAWRENCE, now at Cochin, to co-operate. DIPAVATI, local defence vessel, will shortly resume A/S patrol off Marmagoa itself.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Aircraft Training.	U.S. Navy Dept. has agreed that aircraft from British aircraft carriers may be landed at the North Atlantic station, Norfolk, Va., for training and maintenance.
CIRCASSIA.	Is to leave Halifax a.m./6 to establish a patrol in square H.32 B. to intercept an enemy supply ship.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

A.L.Cs for Dover. Request 3 A.L.C. may be allocated so as to arrive Dover 12/12 and that their personnel may be the same as for November period. (V.A. Dover 1016A/5.)

M/L Flotilla for Troon. A.M.1546A/3. Request an M.L. Flotilla, preferably H.D.M.Ls, may be allocated to Troon as soon as possible. Tentative arrangements to share this base with R.A.F. have recently been made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1048A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

Destroyer Allocations. 1. Following is an extract from R.A.D. 1132/20/11, begins. "Admiralty's 1327A/1st November. For convenience of administration propose that Admiralty approval be asked for transfer of 'A' Class Destroyers to W.A. Command to take place on 1/12/41 irrespective of dates of completion of refit. Ends."
2. In view of Admiralty's 2216A/3 request Admiralty will issue necessary instructions. (C. in C. W.A. 1113A/5.)

M.G.B.501. On completion of trials M.G.B.501 is allocated for special operations conducted from Admiralty in collaboration with local Naval authorities and not to the 16th M.G.B. Flotilla. Admiralty will keep operational authorities and R.A.C.F. informed of requirements for this boat and R.A.C.F. is requested to arrange for her maintenance. (D.D.O.D. C. 1845A/5 to R.A.C.F.)

HENRIETTE. ESTRELLA DEL MAR for Grimsby. A.L. M/M.S. 0677/41. In view of minelaying by E. Boats in Nore Command following changes in "LL" trawler dispositions are made now. To join 137 M/S group at Grimsby. HENRIETTE from Granton, ESTRELLA DEL MAR from Cardiff on completion of trials. Authorities are to sail ships accordingly. (D.M.S. 1851A/5.)

SCOTT. My 1043A/29/11. SCOTT is now required to arrive Scapa 17/12. (D.O.D. H. 1918A/5 to R.A.M.)

/RODNEY ....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - contd.

RODNEY
RENOWN.

Your 1812A/15/10 and your 1819A/30/10. RODNEY has had only 21 days leave since the outbreak of war, the last occasion being 7 days December 1940. Subject to no change in the situation propose to relieve RODNEY by RENOWN and to release RODNEY for leave and to change guns about 27/12.
(C. in C. H.F. 2301/5 to Adty.)

Forces for H.F.

A.M. 1603A/26 para.2. Cancel ships to be allocated and substitute :-

C. in C. W.A.	-	2 Corvettes, 1 HUNT.
C. in C. Plymouth	-	2 HUNTS.
C. in C. Portsmouth	-	2 HUNTS one of which may be WHEATLAND.
C. in C. Nore	-	2 Leaders or Vees fitted with S.A. Sweep.
C. in C. Rosyth	-	Nil

2. Cancel A.M. 2038A/25 and A.M. 2039A/25. These vessels will not be required but work in hand for fitting for cold weather is to be completed. Allocations to 43rd and 44th Groups are cancelled and they are to revert to normal duties on completion.
(1st S.L. 2335A/5.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Communications.

Severe frosts have made it advisable to sail LEDA. Naval wireless set not yet arrived. Request name of ship in which despatched. Have ceased wireless watch in accordance with my 1650C/24 and on 16 Kcs/sec. Watch on 5000 Kcs/sec. will be kept for 1st hour of every watch communication with ship. Request all fixed service traffic be passed via Murmansk or direct through Air Ministry or War Office until alternative arrangements made. Hope to resume direct service within 48 hours. Admiralty pass to all addressees except S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1201C/5 to Adty. Reptd. C. in C. H.F., SHEFFIELD, 1st M/S Flotilla.)
It has now become essential to instal remote reception at Polyarno. Request immediate despatch of 1000 yards run of coaxial cables with matching units complete for erection of remote receiving aerial. Request shipment in ocean escort of next P.Q. Convoy.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1348C/5 to Adty.)

Naval Armament Stores for Russia.

In P.Q.4. Details.
(D.D.A.S. L. 2019A/5.)
See Shipping.

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Scapa Blockships. A.L. M/LD 02655/41 of 29th September to A.C.O.S. only.
(1) It is considered here that CAROLIA THORDEN will make a better block to the North of Pontos than INVERLANE. As it is understood that she will be ready in the middle of January it is proposed to sink her here and keep INVERLANE as spare. (2) As no provision has yet been made for a barge to fill the gap South of Pontos, and as I have doubts whether a barge would stay there, I propose to use COLLINDOC on arrival for this position. Request approval.
(A.C.O.S. 1203A/5 to Adty.)

Movements.

H.50. Arrived H.50 and Z.5.
(Capt. S.7. 0914A/5.)

MEYNELL VIVACIOUS. Return to Sheerness independently.
(C. in C. Nore 0937A/5 to MEYNELL, VIVACIOUS.)

ALERT. Departure at 0845A, T.H.V. ALERT with S.I Light Float in tow and Trawler escort LORD PLENDER.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0945A/5.)

WHITEHALL. CAMPBELTOWN. C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3. Arrived WHITEHALL and CAMPBELTOWN. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1019A/5.) Sailed WHITEHALL, CAMPBELTOWN in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1734A/3 and 1058A/4. Intended speed of advance 13 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1553A/5.)

P.36. Your 1849A/1 and 1701/3 arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1036A/5 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

SALTASH. Intend sailing SALTASH for Thorshavn 1900/6.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1132/5.)

H.44. Sheerness arrival H.44 at 1124.
(C. in C. Nore 1210A/5.)

QUEENS CROSS. QUEENS CROSS departed Fort William 1146/5 towing barges LYME BAY and STRATULA for Greenock calling Oban for onward routeing.
(ST. CHRISTOPHER 1234A/5.)

/LEDA ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

LEDA. Sailed LEDA for Murmansk. E.T.A. 0900C/7.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1450C/5.)
Under LENIN's instructions anchoring Lebedin Island Reach in company with Russian convoy. T. of D. unknown. S.B.N.O. Archangel pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(LEDA 2229C/5 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, Rptd. SHEFFIELD.)

SCOTT. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan 1458A/5.)

P.35. (i) Intend to sail P.35 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE passing Bell Rock 1230A/7, thence through Minches to position 270° Bishops Rock 7 miles, E.T.A. 1700A/11. (ii) Thence P.35 dives by day to position 046° N. 012° 40' W., thence on the surface at C.O's discretion to 043° N. 012° 40' W. E.T.A. in last position 2359A/14. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(Capt. S.9, 1533A/5) see Capt. S.9 1207A/6.

ROBERTS
EREBUS. Your 1916/4. Continue towards Azores and report situation at 1200Z/6.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1555A/5 to ROBERTS.)

UNA. UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR left Clyde 1640A/5 Southbound through Irish Sea 8½ knots for position 50° N. 06° 30' W. and may be met during the night.
(C. in C. W.A. 1701A/5 to VANQUISHER, etc.)
Sailed UNA escorted by WHITE BEAR in accordance with S.3's 1633A/3.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1722A/5.)

P.37. Sailed P.37 escorted by STELLA PEGASI in accordance with my 1550/4.
(A.C.O.S. 1718A/5.)

RODNEY. S.R.C's 1258/41. Propose RODNEY should arrive at Bar Lt Vessel before dark on January 1st and anchor for the night. Proceed up harbour at 1000/2nd and secure at Princes Stage. Leave Stage for Cammell Lairds Basin at 1045/3rd.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1958/5 to RODNEY.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Interception of M/V from Boulogne.

Sailed 0935 TYNEDALE. E.T.A. 1500.
(C. in C. Plymouth 0958/5 to C. in C. Portsmouth)
My 2046A/4. M.T.B.51 and M.G.B.56 returned 0925A/5. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1008A/5.)
Departures M.Ls 341 and 283 for Dover for onward routeing to Falmouth and Portland respectively speed of advance 14 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1105A/5.)
HORNET's 1740/4. M.T.B. 220 sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1128A/5 to V.A. Dover.)
Intend to sail M.G.B.314 for Portland at 1330 today, passing Needles Channel at 1410. E.T.A. 1700. (HORNET 1215/5.)
M.Ls 155, 160, 157, 177 arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1217A/5.)
A.M. 1428A/4. This operation is to be repeated tonight. (A.C.N.S. H. 1224A/5.)
Anchor at Yarmouth. You will be joined by 4 Motor Launches. S.O. will bring operation orders for tonight.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1327A/5 to TYNEDALE.)
M.L.155 S.O., 157, 160, and 177 which you are to take under your orders will R/V with you at Yarmouth. Sail at 1530 to carry out a patrol to northward of Cape Barfleur. Object is to destroy a merchant vessel, possibly an armed raider, which is expected to proceed from Boulogne to Cherbourg tonight. TYNEDALE should engage escort while M.L. attacks main target with torpedoes. TYNEDALE's Force is not to operate to westward of longitude 001° 45' W. unless in contact with the enemy. TYNEDALE's Force return to Portsmouth on completion of operation. If nothing is sighted during the night, leave Patrol Line so as to be within 30 miles English coast by 0830. M.T.B.51 and M.G.B. 314 will be operating off Cape Dela Hague to intercept enemy if he proceeds beyond Cherbourg. Code word for fighter protection "Match".
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1343A/5 to TYNEDALE.)
Arrival M.Ls 341 and 283.
(V.A. Dover 1551A/5.)
My 1327A/5. Proceed via Solent to St. Helens Road. Motor Launch will join you about 1830. Proceed as soon as orders are received.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1603A/5 to TYNEDALE.)
Your 0958/5. Arrived TYNEDALE 1635.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1640A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
M.T.Bs. 219, 47, 48. M.G.Bs 324, 330 will be on patrol in vicinity of Bullock Bank Buoy from 1800 to midnight today.
(V.A. Dover 1900A/5.)
Your 1333A/5. M.G.B.314 and M.T.B.51 sailed at 2107. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2120A/5.)

/East ...

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

East Coast Patrol.

Intend that WINDSOR and QUORN sail for Humber at 1600A/5th carrying out following patrol. WINDSOR number 5 buoy to (?Hearty) Knoll and number 5 buoy to Newarp latter patrol only after 0100/6. QUORN Q.Z.S. 286 to southward of number 5 buoy. Ships to leave patrol so as to pass number 7 buoy northwards at 0300/6. Capt. (D) 16th D.F. Concurs.
(WINDSOR 1146/5.)

SEAWOLF Patrol.

SEAWOLF sailed for patrol off Kongsfjord between meridian of 29° E. and 30 20 E.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1439C/5.)

Operation "Kitbag".

Operation "Kitbag" will take place night of 10/11 or 11/12 December. Request coastal command offensive operations in this particular area be restricted to normal for 48 hours before and suspended during operation. Request fighter protection in accordance with my 1811/2. Capt. (D) 3 will report time of sailing from Sullom Voe. Return route as in Captain (D) 3's 94/001 of 4/12.
(C. in C. H.F. 1951A/5 to C. in C. Rosyth, Reptd. Capt. D.3.)

Unknown Operation.

Intend sailing M.G.B.319 and M A/S B 36 at 1200/6 to Falmouth for operation. Orders follow by hand. Speed 20 knots. E.T.A. 1600/6. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2221/5.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 0950/4 by Sweepers in 231°. Knob Bell Buoy 8 cables.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 0914/5.)
One magnetic mine detonated at 1718/4 by M.M.S. in 070° Nore Light Vessel, 1.1 miles.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1646/5.)

East Coast Main Channels.

Enemy minelaying suspected in main channels north and south of Sheringham Buoy. Main channels are to be swept as early and frequently as possible.
(C. in C. Nore 0931A/5.)

/Humber ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Humber. Please add to my 2319A/1. (Mines exploded on 30/11) At 1500 in 124° 58 A Buoy 0.9 miles red outside near.
(F.O. Humber 1216A/5.)

N.P.7A. Intend to carry out operation N.P.7A tonight.
(V.A. Dover 1217A/5.)

Operation Q.O. Nine M/S and two M.Ls sail from Harwich 0800/6. Start sweeping in N. 3624 at 1345, finish in N. 6338 at 1515. Leave N. 6338 at 1545 N. 1806 at 1845.
(C. in C. Nore 1830A/5 to 11 Group.)

Navigational.

Rosyth open. Cancel my 2210/4.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0652/5.)

Harwich. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0746A/5.)
Port opened.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0924A/5.)

Technical.

Identification Marks. After 0001 G.M.T/15 S.O. 02298 (2) is to be brought into force on Home Stations.
Identification marks will only be displayed in the event of invasion or when specially ordered.
S.P.02298 is to be retained on board as a reserve edition and should be marked accordingly.
S.P. 02298 (2) is not yet fully distributed on foreign stations.
(D.S.D. 1856A/5.)

Casualties and Defects.

CORONIA. My 1630A/4. If spare port propellor can be obtained for CORONIA, vessel can be beached at Oban and work carried out here.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1050A/5.)

MALLOW. A.M. 2008A/4. Request arrangements be made to tow MALLOW to Belfast.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1113A/5.)
Capt. D. Londonderry's 1113A/5. Subject to Admiralty approval rescue tug CAROLINE MOLLER could be used to tow MALLOW to Belfast when recalled from Lough Foyle about 7/12.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1438A/5.)
Your 1438A/5. Admiralty concur that CAROLINE MOLLER should be used to tow MALLOW to Belfast. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is to sail ships as convenient. (C. in C. W.A. 2330A/5 to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects -contd.

P.511. Departure of "Silent" postponed. P.511 has grounded in Lough Foyle.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1247A/5.)
My 1247A/5. Will attempt to refloat P.511 at high water about 2100 tonight.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1539A/5.)
My 1247A/5. P.511 refloated. Sailed codeword "Silent". E.T.A. 0800A/6.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 2225/5.)

M.L.148. My 1411. M.L.148 returned to harbour with engine defect.
(F.O. Humber 1445/5.)

JASMINE. My 0949A/4. JASMINE delayed by defects. Intend sailing 1030A/6 speed 14 knots. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 2330A/6.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1540A/5.)

MASTADONTE. Your 1400A/29/11 which has been passed to F.O.I.C. Glasgow. Damage to MASTADONTE's funnel has proved extensive. Tug proceeds up river to Glasgow for repairs a.m. tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1735A/5.)

CATTISTOCK. Have struck wreck in position 052° 54' 50" N. 001° 31' 30" E. Speed reduced by excessive vibrations.
(CATTISTOCK 2340A/5.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.P.76. CLEVELAND is to pass the Gate at 1400 to R/V with BROCKLESBY in 270° Eddystone 7.5 miles at 1530 and take over escort of W.P.76. On relief BROCKLESBY to proceed to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1106/5.)

LESTO.
BARANDA. Intend sailing LESTO and BARANDA escorted by LORD AUSTIN to Kirkwall at 1600 tomorrow for onward routeing to Barry Roads and Leith respectively. Speed 8 knots routed as in my 1131A/30/11. E.T.A. daylight 8th. Request Air Escort from 0930/7 in same estimated position. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1116A/5.)

/Convoys ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Convoys
U.R.
R.U.
O.N.
O.N.S.

C. in C. W.A. 2205A/30/11 Para 3, and D.T.D's Trade protection Sub-committee Meeting on 27th November 1941, Items 1 and 2. Propose that these convoys be designated U.R. sailing to Iceland and R.U. sailing from Iceland.
2. To sail from Loch Ewe two days after O.N.(S) convoy sail from Liverpool.
5. R.U. convoy to be sailed 48 hours after the U.R. convoy has arrived at Reykjavik by order from A.C.I.C.
6. C. in C. W.A. to route both convoys.
7. It is further proposed that all O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys should normally be routed in future South of Barra instead of through the Minches.
8. The East Coast ships for these convoys to be routed to Oban to form the Oban section of the main convoy.
9. In the event of the submarine or air situation requiring it, these O.N. convoys can always be diverted up the Minches without any dislocation of arrangements.
10. Rescue ships on these O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys to be normally escorted across to the eastbound H.X. or S.C. convoy by corvettes, though occasions will undoubtedly arise when it will be necessary to send them to Iceland if the convoys were delayed by weather, escorted by one corvette or with the Iceland portion of the H.X. or S.C. convoy, after making contact at M.O.M.P.
(C. in C. W.A. 1213A/5 and 1307A/5.)

H.X.160.

Many congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. the ships of your convoy H.X.160. MOUNT RHODOPE eventually arrived in S.C.55.
(C. in C. W.A. 1450/5 to Vice-Admiral F.A. Marten)

S.C.55.
MOUNT PARNAS.

MOUNT PARNAS (Greek) arrived Methil in W.N.13. Ship left Sydney C.B. in S.C.55. Two days out lost convoy due to fire which broke out in stokehold. Subsequently met very heavy weather and was driven to northward ship sustaining damage, came through Fair Island passage and decided to make for Aberdeen for repairs was picked up off 30 Buoy by escort of W.N.13.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1708/5.)

/O.N.41 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.41. EXPLORER. P.Q.7. Your 1628D/28. S.S. EXPLORER now on passage to Iceland (C) in O.N.41 due about 7/12 will be sailed in first available convoy probably P.Q.7 leaving Hvalfiord on 15/12 and due Archangel about 26/12.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1743A/5 to Ad. Miles.)

P.Q.4. Details of naval armament stores for Russian authorities are as follows. Bills of lading and vouchers charging stores to rear Admiral Miles are being forwarded to you and you are requested to obtain receipts from the Russian Authorities on arrival of the stores.
(D.D.A.S. L. 2019A/5 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

S.C.56. SHERIDAN and TOLKEN in company have relieved ORILLIA. Remainder of A portion very scattered and unable to collect themselves owing to inability to communicate with TARBERT escort vessel and large errors in position. MONTGOMERY and NARCISSUS joining me, remainder joining B portion. Canadian escort leaves B portion at 1900Z/5. Position doubtful, course 117°, speed 8 knots.
(BEAGLE 2101Z/5.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BRADFORD. Your 2245/24/11 my 1230/4. Sailed BRADFORD to fuel Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

REGENT. Keep sharp lookout for U-Boat. One destroyer patrol north and fore 20 mile East Gibraltar will keep north of 035° 50' and west of 004° 40' after 0400A/6. Aircraft co-operation by night. Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/5 to REGENT.)
My 1110A/5. For (? 1) read 3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1706A/5 to REGENT.)

O.21. My 1436/4 sailed O.21.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1132A/5 to Admty., etc.)

SEVERN. Adjust speed to cross latitude 035° 10' N. not earlier than 0730A/9 and R/V with escort in position (F) at 1400A/9.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/5 to SEVERN.)

H.G.76, delayed. Search. Your 2030/3 and A.M. 1835/26/11.
Pending further information convoy H.G.76 is to be held at Gibraltar. You will be given 2 days warning of date of sailing.
2. A.M. 1943/4 indicates the desirability of a re-orientation of your search. Suggest for your consideration that the modern destroyers and Long-range aircraft should operate in the more distant areas leaving the closure of the Straits to be maintained by the remainder of your A/S Forces and aircraft as at present.
(V.C.N.S., 1231A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A.S.V. Contact. Your 1845A/3. 1. 800 feet. 5 to 6 miles. This height being best compromise between visual and A.S.V. requirements.
2. At first contact course is altered to keep target on bow and enable final approach to be made up moon. This permits of necessary identification and estimation of target movement with little chance of being sighted.
3. Final approach was made as for deck landing.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/5 to Admty.)

JAY, SEVERN. JAY in Fayal. Situation 2002A.
(ii) SEVERN estimated about 23.33 17.55 through 25.25 17.30 thence 050° 12'.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1328A/5 to A.I.G.64.)

/P. 35 ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

P.35. (1) Intend P.35 to pass through 043° 00' N. 012° 40' W. at 2359A/14, proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.
(ii) W/T Watch.
(iii) S.P's carried.
(iv) P.35 is painted grey with pendants in white on conning tower.
(Capt. S.9, 1545A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

URSULA. Your 1108A/4 and 2208A/1 and my 1853/4 passed via Rosyth at 1954A/4. My position 1800A/5 037° 16', 001° 36' E. permission is requested to pass point P and L 24 hours early to arrive at Gibraltar 0900/8. Weather report.
(URSULA, 1746A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AUDACITY. My 1804A/28/11. In view of short period that AUDACITY can now be operated with convoy H.G.76 and O.G.77 intend to sail her for U.K. as extra escort to H.G.76.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1758A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

URSULA. Your 1746/5.
Your 1954/4 not received. Remain on patrol within 15 miles of position P leaving to conform with my 2208A/1. U-Boats patrol your vicinity. CLYDE on patrol within 30 miles African Coast. Own aircraft on A/S patrols to longitude 000° 45' W. Shift W/T watch forthwith.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2310A/5 to URSULA.)

U/B's. Sighted and attacked.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1800/5, 200 Group 1800/5.)
See U-Boat Campaign.)

UNA. UNA sails from patrol after dark on 14/12 through 044° N. 009° W. for position 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0800A/15, thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. for Gibraltar.
(II) W/T watch.
(III) UNA is painted grey with light grey figures on conning tower.
(IV) S.P's carried.
(Capt. S.3, 2145A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

STORK, JONQUIL. STORK, JONQUIL are to leave harbour at 0900/6 and rejoin Group 2. One Corvette is to return to harbour when STORK joins.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2229A/5 to WISHART, STORK, JONQUIL.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ECHODALE, ASTER, MARGUERITE.

Your 0427N/4 (1427N/4 intended.)
(a) ECHODALE parted company at 1645N/4 in 016° 45' S. 012° 50' W.
(b) ASTER, MARGUERITE, E.T.A. position (F) 1200N/7, speed 12½ knots.
(c) Intend approach (F) through position 023° 00' S. 006° 30' W. looking for survivors from CLAN MACBEAN.
(ASTER, 0001Z/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
ASTER 0001Z/5. If BIRMINGHAM has sufficient fuel I would prefer that she is not far from F while corvettes are passing through area on 7th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1017N/5 to S.O. S.America Sqdn.)

D.E.M.S. Ammunition.

Propose following stock D.E.M.S. ammunition be kept at Umbogintwini Depot. (Details).
If approved request ammunition be shipped to Durban to arrive March 1942.
(A.S. Simonstown, 0931B/5 to Admty.)

Enemy Supply Ships, Patrols.

Movements of U-Boats in South Atlantic as disclosed by D/F bearings show 4 in area where supply ship was sunk on 1/12. 2 might have fuelled from this ship and it seems that the other 2 fuelled about 19/11 in the vicinity of 010° N. 036° W.
2. This appears to indicate U-Boats are expecting another supply ship in area south of St. Helena shortly perhaps, a fruit ship sailed from French port vide Admty. 1812A/23/11.
3. Intend to maintain a patrol in Area South of St. Helena as long as possible, but until BIRMINGHAM gets back from Cape about 13/12 only DERBYSHIRE will be there.
4. A patrol further north, say in St. Paul's Rock area, also seems very important. Intend to keep DEVONSHIRE there to limit of endurance deferring repairs in ? U.S.A. and reinforcing her with CANTON shortly. Could C. in C. A. & W.I. provide patrol further westward, say in H 32 B?
5. Could CILICIA be detached from W.S.14 and be routed to Freetown west of Verde through H 34 to keeppatrol going. I could also defer CARNARVON CASTLE and/or ALCANTARA proceeding U.S.A. for refit if this is considered desirable.
(C. in C. S.A., 1059N/5 to Admty.)
Your 1059N/5. Concur that 4 U-Boats are probably in this area now, and that a supply ship may be expected shortly.
2. CILICIA will be detached from W.S.14 - as required by your para. 5.
3. It is not considered that prospects of interception in the "H" area justify delaying ALCANTARA or CARNARVON CASTLE.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2331A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

/DUNEDIN....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNEDIN survivors. Your 1227/4. From B.A.D. Washington's 2107/2 the estimated position of rescue would appear to be about 3½° N. 21½° W. on 27/11. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1113A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

CONSBRO. No reply having been received to my 1505N/22/11* intend to sail CONSBRO to Gibraltar. (C. in C. S.A., 1118N/5 to Admty.) * (N.T. in W.R.)

Shipping Diversions. Your 1714A/21/10. Please confirm Admiralty will divert shipping from Walvis Bay. No diversion received here for STAR OF CAIRO or SOULIOTIS (Greek). (C. in C. S.A., 1130N/5 to Admty.)

SURCOUF. Admty. 1748A/2 para. 2. Request SURCOUF be sailed via Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1139N/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ILEX. Further investigation confirms that the seizure is in the starboard H.P. Turbine and that this must be opened to ascertain the cause, in view of F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1251B/3 (N.T. in W.D.) intend to manufacture lifting gear locally which it is estimated will take about 14 days. (N.L.O. Durban, 1250B/5 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

BALTAVIA. My 1128N/3. State of discipline in this ship is bad. Consider this is additional reason for her returning to U.K. where I recommend she should be paid off. Air Mail letter follows. (C. in C. S.A., 1305N/5 to Admty.)

WEST CHETAC. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1155/28. WEST CHETAC arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1505B/5 to Admty., etc.)

COMMANDANT DOMINE, CEDARDALE, CARTHAGE. Simonstown departure 1200 G.M.T./5 Free French Sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE by inshore route for Durban. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. p.m./8. (2) Capetown departure 0955 G.M.T./5 R.F.A. CEDARDALE by route R.1 for R/V with CARTHAGE outer end of Durban searched channel 0800 G.M.T./9. Thence in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1500/1. E.T.A. Mauritius a.m./16. S. of A. 10 knots. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1648Z/5 to Admty. etc.) (Note: See Amendment 1623Z/6.)

/SEVERN ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SEVERN. Your 1350A/4/12. (1354A/4 intended.) SEVERN sailed 0800N/2/12. E.T.A. position (F) 0730A/9/12. My ? 2213N/2/12 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1831A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Whale Catchers. Your 2220A/10/11 extract obtained from R.A.S. A.D. BUSEN 7 sailed in 1st group by order of Salvesen Agents, South Georgia, before names of catchers contained in above message could be passed to South Georgia. South Georgia requests information as regards BUSEN 6. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1853Z/5 to Admty.)

AUSTRALIA. Simonstown departure (?13)00 G.M.T/5 AUSTRALIA to eastward in accordance with Adty. 1655/3 S. of A. 15 knots, routed through following positions (k) 028° 10' S. 045° 10' E. (l) 024° 00' S. 064° 00' E. (m) 024° 00' 090° 00'. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1657Z/5.)

Mediterranean.

TRUSTY R. of P. Unsuccessfully (attacked) One Italian Destroyer GRECALE Class in 037° 46' 020° 25' at 1217B, steaming mean course 135° speed 18 knots. Gyro failure. 54 charges. My 1401B/28. Enemy approx. route follows. 198° Vardiani light 1 mile, thence to 270° for 3.8 miles to position 259° Vardiani light 4 miles, thence course 185° for 7 miles, thence course 155°. Weather report. (TRUSTY, 0006B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

Libya. Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E., 0202/5, 2337/5 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

U/B. U-Boat in 036° 15' N. 022° 45' E. estimated 050° 5 knots. Weather report. (TALISMAN, 0301B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

LESBOS. Unless visibility improves send whaler to lead LESBOS to convoy. (S.O. Force I, 0913B/5 to YARRA.) Detach FLAMINGO and one SOUTHERN to return to Mersa Matruh as escort for LESBOS to sail as ordered by S.O. Force I. (R.A. Alexandria, 1325B/5 to YARRA.) Sail at 1700/5 with LESBOS through route ordered for "Bosom" estimated S. of A. 5½ knots E.T.A. Tobruk 0330/7 Code Name "Bosom 2". Fighter protection required daylight hours 6/12. (S.O. Force I, 1514B/5 to FLAMINGO, SOUTHERN MAID.)

/On arrival ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LESBOS. (Contd.)

On arrival off Boom turn back with SOUTHERN ISLE and reinforce FLAMINGO sailed as in S.O. Force (I) 1514/5.
(Alexandria, 2035B/5 to YARRA.)

A/C Services.

Your message 25/11 (N.T. in W.R.) B.O.A.C. H.Q. Cairo assure me that many of their aircraft en route to Lagos and to Cairo via Malta have called at Lisbon since 1/10. Those on former route still continue but latter route is temporarily in abeyance. Would much appreciate if active steps could be taken to remedy present state of affairs as French Squadron is beginning to think we have promised something we cannot put into force.
(C. in C. Med., 1001B/5 to Ambassador, Lisbon.)

Russian Tankers from Black Sea.

Visiting Istanbul re Russian ships Russian N.A. informed me Russian Minister of Commerce authorizes only 12,500 tons of oil products be discharged Turkey remainder to be all British. Very desirable H.M.G. and Adm. Miles impress on Russian Govt. we want oilers, not oil, and Turks require oil very badly; amount already delivered has had excellent effect. Urgently regard instructions to this effect be sent Russian Representatives in Turkey.
Russian N.A. now states arrival second batch oilers has been postponed until first lot have been disposed of, and one of first batch cannot be discharged until authority is received from Moscow.
(Adm. Kelly, 1217B/5 to Admty.)
Thank you for your 1331B/2. Russians fully appreciate situation and are most grateful for your help. 2. I have already expressed views in your 1356B/4 to the Russians.
(Adm. Miles, 1676D/5 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Ships.

Aircraft report 7000-ton ship one mile N.E. of jetty (corrupt group) 2 - 250-ton ships inside harbour 1030/5.
(N.L.O. 8th Army, 1236B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

U/B, Bardia.

U-Boat has been sighted heading for Bardia from northwest. It is thought she may be carrying supplies to garrison and may arrive p.m./5. There may also be one leaving from there. Attempt to intercept p.m./5. Leave area 0600/6 and return to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1237B/5 to Capt. D.14.)

/ A/C Sweep.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A/C Sweep, Derna. (cancelled)

Blenheims will carry out an offensive sweep off Derna tonight. Will not attack east of 023° 00' E. Swordfish will not carry out search from Fuka to 024° 10' E. tonight 5th/6th.
(201 Group, 1254B/5 to Med. Fleet at Sea.)
My 1254/5. Owing to weather conditions Blenheims will not carry out sweep off Derna tonight.
(201 Group, 1559B/5.)

Malta Supplies.

Middle East Supply Centre 1255/5 to Govr. Malta. See Lion Copy.

P.34.

Leave patrol p.m./6 routed as in your sailing orders to arrive Malta 0730B/8.
(Capt. S.10, 1301B/5 to P.34.)

Cruiser torpedoed by P.31 29/11.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.
(a) 29/11/41.
(b) 3 Cruisers escorted NAVIGATORI Destroyers southbound. Weather rough detected by Asdic when deep. Fired at centre cruiser by periscope 100 track daylight dispersal salvo from a range rather over 4,000 yards. Observation impossible 40 minutes later owing to darkness. (c) P.31. (j) 3 hits target H.E. persisting very slowly for 7 minutes then loud explosion H.E. stopping. Remaining vessels continued, cruiser probably sunk.
(Capt. S.10, 1306B/5 to Admty.)

0.24.

Assume patrol in area 0, 038° 38' N. 012° 58' E. 360 10 10. U-Boat may be expected to approach from West.
(Capt. S.10, 1317B/5 to 0.24.)

UPHOLDER.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41. Details of unsuccessful attacks 27/11 on 7000-tons westbound laden tanker south of Spartivento Cape and 2/12 on 3 northbound cruisers escorted by 5 destroyers 20 miles north-east Cape Colonne.
(Capt. S.10, 1343B/5 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals 4/12, DECOY, NAPIER, HOTSPUR, GRIFFIN, DELPHINIUM. Departures 4/12, CHANTALA (corrupt group) FLAMINGO, HEYTHROP, WOLBOROUGH, AVONDALE, Motor Launch 1023. Arrived and sailed 4/12 SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN MAID, COCKER. Arrival 5/12 ST. ISSEY.
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1527B/5 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

/LANCE .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LANCE.

A.S. Malta's 1642B/1 not to Admiralty. LANCE in dock reveals abnormal corrosion of number of rivet points. (Details).
Consider vessel should dock for examination in 3 months time or earlier if rivets necessitate it.
(A.S. Malta, 1602B/5 to Admty.)

MIKOYAN attacked by A/C and E/B.

Russian ice breaker MIKOYAN under command Lieut. Harkness has arrived Famagusta. Vessel attacked by night off Kastelorizo by E-Boats and torpedo A/C. Slight damage one wounded. Enemy obviously prepared for ships coming south and I would stress necessity defensive armament, which MIKOYAN did not possess. Please inform Adm. Miles.
(N.A. Ankara, 1737B/5 to Admty.)
MIKOYAN due Port Said about 6/12 to transit canal without delay and be sailed for U.K. N.O.i/c. Port Said is to report particulars of speed and (? endurance) to S.N.O. Red Sea repeated N.O.i/c. Aden, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty.
(C. in C. Med., 1815B/5 to S.B.N.O. Suez, etc.)

Malta Raid.

Night 4/5. 2007 to 0457 hours, total 26 raiders approached, 4 crossed coast. Bombs land, sea, some identified as German. Aircraft not identified. 11 houses demolished. 1 civilian killed 2 injured. No other damage.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1740/5.)

Sfax Air R/C.

Your 1415A/4. Railway route Zuara to Tunisian border exists but lines not laid. No line on Tunisian side or sign of intended construction. No signs movement Zuara Tunisian border today. Zuara (? to) Tripoli under cloud. Movement in Sfax will be watched and reported, also movement to Zuara from there.
(A.O.C. Med., 1830/5 to Admty.)

Russian Front.

Estimate of dates the Germans may reach Caucasus.
(N.I.D.16 to C's in C. Abroad 1926A/5.)
See Lion Copy.

Movements.

Summary 224.
(C. in C. Med., 1947/5.) See Lion Copy.-

/Aircraft ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aircraft and Supplies for Malta.

V.A. Malta's 1213/19/11. Owing to operational difficulties it is not intended to fly any additional Naval aircraft to Malta from the West until a modern carrier is available at Gibraltar.
2. It will not be possible to ship either engines, large spares or equipment to Malta from the West for a considerable time.
3. Arrangements made for immediate despatch to Malta in an H.M. Ship of following items (list).
(Hd. of Air Branch, 2142A/5 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, A.O.C. Med.)

CHAKDINA sunk.

My 2135 (N.T. in W.R.) FARNDALE, THORGRIM, picking up survivors ERIDGE proceeding Alexandria with KIRLAND.
(FARNDALE, 2236/5 to C. in C. Med.)
W.D. Note:- CHAKDINA sunk by A/C torpedoes 2135/5. See C. in C. Med. 1756B/6.
SOTRA searching for CHAKDINA survivors until 0700/6.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2318B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

TRUSTY.
THUNDERBOLT.

My 2317B/3 and my 1905B/2. (? Amend) route as follows: TRUSTY after passing 034° 36' 021° 50' proceed through 034° 36' 025° 25' thence direct arriving at Sanctuary 0530B/9. THUNDERBOLT after passing 034° 32' 022° 54' proceed through 033° 22' 027° 54' thence direct to arrive at Sanctuary 0600B/8.
(Capt. S.1, 2355B/5 to TRUSTY, THUNDERBOLT.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WINDSOR CASTLE.

Your 1645/25/9 and my 0502/3/10. Request report of anticipated date of completion of WINDSOR CASTLE. (D.S.T., 0204A/5 to P.S.T.O. India).

Marmagoa possible U/Bs. Search.

(1) Reports from British Consul Nova Goa on recent activity off Marmagoa indicate that possibility of submarines or Axis supply ships being in that neighbourhood cannot be ignored.
(2) British Consular officers and Harbour Masters at Marmagoa who are eye-witnesses are convinced of presence of a submarine on several occasions at night between 10/11 and 29/11. Although I do not entirely share their convictions the evidence is sufficiently strong to necessitate a search being made for unauthorized ships in Laccadive and in neighbourhood of Goa.
(3) I have accordingly withdrawn GLASGOW from her escort duty in Bay of Bengal, ERINPURA and intend to arrange a search of Laccadive Island by air and ship forthwith. F.O.C.R.I.N. is being asked to lend LAWRENCE now at Cochin to join the search, and local defence vessel DIPAVATI will shortly resume A/S patrol off Marmagoa itself.
(4) At end of October it was reported Japanese LIMA MARU was hanging about vicinity Bombay and East coast of India. No further news of her received, but should such a vessel be met during search she would be sent in for search under Prize Manual article, 101.
(C. in C. E.I., 0826Z/5 to Admty).
Departure GLASGOW at 0930/5.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0938Z/5 to Admty etc).

Air Forces Iraq, Persia.

Provisional instructions contained in our X.408 (2330/16/9) are cancelled. Following definition of responsibility for operational control of air forces and responsibility for development of air facilities in Iraq, Persia, Persian Gulf and Arabia has been agreed with India Office and is to take effect at once. A.O.C. Iraq under general direction of A.O.C. in C. Middle East will be responsible for operational and administrative control and development of all air forces and air facilities in Iraq., Persian Gulf, Arabia excluding Aden Protectorate, and in Persia up to an Eastern Boundary line which follows Meridian 60° E. Northward to Persian Coast thence to Kerman (exclusive to India) and thence to Meshed (inclusive to India) R.A.F. India will continue to afford assistance for development of Karachi - Aden Air Route as far as boundary of Aden Protectorate and Army will continue to carry out their normal duties in respect of development and maintenance of air facilities in area in which C. in C. India is responsible.
(Air Ministry, 1708 G.M.T./5 to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E).

/ROYAL.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, W.S.12 Z. — C. in C. Eastern Fleet 1015/3, para. 4. Can you provide alternative cruiser escort for W.S.12 Z? (A.C.N.S. (F), 2318A/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet. — My 0801/2. C. in C. Eastern Fleet will take over command and administration of China Station at 0030Z/10 and flag of Vice Admiral Sir G. Layton will be struck at sunset that day. (C. in C. China, 0313Z/5).

Japanese Warships. — Saigon 3/12 arrived one cruiser, 4/12 arrived one destroyer KAMIKAZE class. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0317Z/5 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

World Control of Shipping. — Your 1631R/26 and N.S.H.Qs. 2238Z/26. Proposals generally concurred in, subject to following remarks. (D.T.D. App. V.C.N.S., 0146A/5 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

DIDO ammunition. — Your 1932A/27/11. DIDO embarked 920 boxes 37 mm. ammunition for transport to Middle East. In view of urgency of this requirement DIDO landed the following Q.F. 5.25 ammunition to provide additional stowage for 37 m.m. packages. Replacement of shell and fuzes will be required when ship arrives on station. (B.A.R.M., 0850R/5 to Admty).

Task Force 4. — My 1623Z/1. Delete TRILLIUM. (C.C.N.F., 1329Z/5 to Com Task Force 4, Admty).

Martlets ARCHER. — Your 2030/27, para 4, it is hoped that all Martlets will be brought by the 3 ships. ARCHER can accommodate 12. (B.A.R.M., 1604R/5 to Admty).

/Landing....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Landing of Aircraft in U.S.A.

Navy Dept. has agreed that aircraft from British aircraft carriers may be landed at the North Atlantic Station, Norfolk, Virginia, for training and maintenance which includes accommodation of repair and operating personnel. Number of Squadrons which could be based will depend on immediate situation and number of aircraft and personnel comprising each British Squadron. If it is ever intended to make use of this permission it is requested I may be given all advance notice possible. (B.A.R.M., 1610R/5 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA.

Leave Halifax a.m./6 and proceed best possible speed to establish patrol in square H.32 B. Object interception of enemy supply ship. Report anticipated date of arrival on patrol. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1712Q/5 to CIRCASSIA).

WARSPITE.

Approx. anticipated programme for WARSPITE Leave U.S.A. 10/1 arrive and leave Singapore 12/2 (fuel 750 tons), arrive Trincomalee 16/2 leave 20/2 (fuel 800 tons) arrive Suez 4/3. (B.A.R.M., 1720R/5 to C. in C. E.F. Admty. etc).

DESPATCH, DIDO.

Bermuda arrivals DESPATCH, DIDO, H.M.C.S. ELK and VISON. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1733Q/5 to Admty).

PRUDENT towage of MACBETH.

PRUDENT returned St. John's N.F. having left MACBETH in 047° 58' N., 034° 25' W., noon/3 drifting E.N.E. average speed 2 knots. PRUDENT reports that towing ship to the westward is almost impossible in prevailing weather and recommends MACBETH should be towed to nearest U.K. or Northern Ireland port. Can tug be sent from U.K. to salvage this ship as PRUDENT most urgently required in St. John's N.F. area? PRUDENT reports MACBETH still able to make W/T. (C.C.N.F., 1819Z/5 to Admty).

IROQUOIS, MACBETH.

S.S. IROQUOIS has arrived St. Johns reporting she was diverted by Admty 1200/3. Ship was bound to New York for repairs and to load cargo. Repairs cannot be carried out here. Master however thinks that since ship has seaworthy certificate and is fitted with deep sea towing gear Admiralty may have had towing job in mind. Was ship sent in connection with S.S. MACBETH who is still drifting, see my 1912Z/27. Rescue tug PRUDENT has just returned St. Johns now refuelling. (C.C.N.F., 1843Z/5, 1943Z/5 to Admty). Reply 1018A/6.

/S.C.59...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.C.59. (i) Task unit 4.1.14 BURNHAM (S.O.) CHILLIWACK, NAPANEE, ALGOMA, TRILLIUM, DRUMHELLER, SUMMERSIDE.
(ii) Wabana, Nil. (C.C.N.F., 1916Z/5 to Admty etc) See also 1529/6.

Finnish Ships. Your 1259/2 to A. and W.I. Station only.
Following is disposition of Finnish and ex-Finnish Ships in Ottawa Area. At Sea.
Norfolk 24/11 OLLVAR 11 (Fin) Botwood Nfld. 3/12.
Cardenas 27/11 KUURTANES (Fin) New York Blank.
New York 26/11 WEPUNEN (Fin) Matanzas Cuba. Blank.
(P.K.) Blank ROLFSBORG (ex Fin. now British) Halifax 18/11.
Santa Cruz 25/11 PANDIA (ex Fin. New York now Pan.) Blank.
Louisburg?us 19/11 DELAWARE (ex Fin. now Pan) Galveston 2/12.
Norfolk 15/11 ex ATLASI (Fin. now ATLASFRI Pan). Guadiloupe, Blank.
Trinidad 26/11 ex SIGGY (Fin.) Mobile now HONDU (Honduras). 2/12.
Buenos Aires 22/11 ex MATHILDA THORDEN (Fin.) now AMAZON (Pan). Boston Blank.
Boston Blank in port, five Finnish Ships AAGOT Baltimore, ADVANCE Philadelphia, ANNEBERG Halifax, AURORA Norfolk, SAIMAA New York. Six ex-Finnish Ships. Old name. New name Location CAROLUS now British Halifax. ERICUS now British HAMILTON inlet Labrador. KEMI, OLIVIA (Pan). Boston. KOURA, CARIBE (Cuban) New York. KURIKKA now Panamanian New York. MARISA THORDEN now Panamanian Baltimore.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

GARLAND defects. My 2056Z/2. GARLAND A/S defects and hull damage (details) will be completed P.M./9. Docking has also disclosed slack bushes in both "A" brackets. Work would require two to three weeks to complete and would entail delay in completion of other ships. Propose therefore to sail AGAMEMNON, CALIFORNIA and GARLAND P.M./10. Request route. (C.O.A.C., 2020Z/5 to Admty).

O.N.43. Escort Unit 4.1.6 composed of WOOLSEY ROE LEA MACLEISH DUPONT BERNADOU designated. (Opnav, 2108/5 to Admty).

CLARKIA. My 2252Q/4 proceed to Jamaica to attend on INDOMITABLE. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/5 to CLARKIA).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

W.S.12 X. B.A.D. Washington's 1807/4. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to reduce period of stay of W.S.12 X. at Capetown to a minimum. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1536/28/10 applies.
2. W.O. are signalling separate instructions to Capetown to ensure that length of stay is only governed by time taken to refuel and revictual. (D.O.D. (F) 2319A/5 to B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

S.C.58. St. John's N.F. 5/12/1941. Arrivals ALYSSE Ex. S.C.56, PRUDENT ex MACBETH. Departures ST. LAURENT, HEPATICA, BUCTOUCHE, NASTURTIUM, PICTOU MOOSEJAW, WINDFLOWER to S.C.58.
(C.C.N.F., 2319Z/5 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

SYDNEY, PARAMATTA. Your 2308A/2. Acknowledgment of message of sympathy of Board of Admiralty.
(A.C.N.B., 0439Z/5 to Admty).

U.S.15. My 1400M/21/11, D. of S.T.s. 0328A/22/11 (0327/22 intended) May Tank Brigade 3600 be accommodated in U.S.15 making total New Zealand personnel for despatch late February 6260?
(N.Z.N.B., 1020M/5 to A.C.N.B.)

Noumea. A.M.1334A/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Visit to Noumea proposed in F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT 0800/25/11 should be included. (D.O.D. (F) 2149A/5 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FJORD (sunk 2/12). CAFO 770/40. My 1748A/3/12. W/T books in Wireless Office, remaining C.B's in Chart Room and Masters cabin. All went down with ship which sank within 90 secs. in approx. 40 fathoms off Estepona Light. Compromise possible although unlikely. 2. 20 survivors, total crew 34 including 4 British. Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer lost. 3. Following only British members of crew arrived Gibraltar 4/12 (list). Remaining survivors at La Linea. 4. Ship believed sunk within territorial waters. Master known to have stressed importance of this. Survivor (estimate?) within swimming distance of shore. 5. Second Mate, Third Engineer and W/T Operator only Officers saved. 6. Information from W/T Operator. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058A/5 to Admty.)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. My 1528/3. Portuguese Destroyer VOUGA has returned to Ponta Delgada having found nothing. Left Ponta Delgada a.m. today for Lisbon. (N.A. Lisbon 1109/5 to Admty.)

CLAN MACBEAN. ASTER's 0001Z/5 (see South Atlantic) Have you any definite information that CLAN MACBEAN has been sunk? (D.T.D. 1546A/5 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1216/7.

Submarines Reported.

0057. By D/F Bearing estimated that Italian U-boat is within 200 miles of 031° 00' N. 034° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0057A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

2355/4. Sunderland sighted U-boat at 2355A/4 in 36° 24' N. 9° 13' W. course 240°. (F.O.C.N.A., 0901A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

1206C. By D/F at 1206C/5 U-boat in vicinity of 071° 09' N. 027° 40' E. (2) SEAWOLF sails 1430C/5 for zone 4.A by route B and parallel 071° 40' N. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1244C/5 to SEALION).

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats. (D.D.I.C. 1418A/5, 1419A/5).

/1340.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1340. PPP Am over enemy S/M in position 268 SPA 55. (A/C F. of No. 202 Sqn. 1340/5 to Gibraltar W/T) Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted. Surfacing then dived. (A/C F. of No. 202 Squadron 1350/5 to Gibraltar W/T).

0906Z. Bearing by D/F at 0906Z/5, position of enemy U-boat was 071° 09' N. 027° 40' E. unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1245C/5 to Admty.)

Gibraltar A/C. Aircraft sighted U-boats as follows (a) Sunderland at2355/4th in 036° 24' N. 009° 13' W. No attack. (b) Catalina at 1340/5 in 268° Spartel 55 (? miles). No attack. (c) Hudson at 1520/5 in 036° 40' N. 010° 02' W, attacked with 2 depth charges. Dark oil appeared. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/5 to Admty, 200 Group 1800/5 to Air Min.)

1839. 1 submarine bearing 264° from Spartel 12 miles. (A/C 202 Sqdn., Duty V., 1839/5 to Gib. W/T).

2130Z. U.S. Destroyer CLEMSON reports S/M sighted 60° 36' from position 06° S. 35° W. course 180° 5 knots. Time approx. 2130Z. (B.A.D., 2215R/5 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

2031Z. By D/F at 2031Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was approx. 48° N. 10° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2251A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

Mediterranean. See Foreign Stations, Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 0230 today M.T.B's 219, 47, and 48, which at 0120 had been ordered to intercept four M-class Enemy Minesweepers steering westwards off Calais sighted 3 of the Minesweepers about 3 miles N.N.E. of Gris Nez. M.T.B. 219 fired torpedoes at 1000 yards without success, M.T.B. 47 was ordered to abandon the attack, and M.T.B. 48 had a missfire and was later driven off by heavy 4-inch and M.G. fire. Numerous star shells, probably fired from the French shore, were clearly seen from Dover during the engagement; and M.G.B's 324 and 330, which had also been ordered to intercept, did not get into action. Our M.T.B's suffered no casualties but were all slightly damaged by shell splinters. The Minesweepers entered Boulogne at about 0430.

S/M P.511, which grounded yesterday in Lough Foyle, reached the Clyde safely at 1434A today.

The German official communique at 1300 today stated that two British S/M's had been sunk off the coast of Norway. The only possible S/M to which this claim could refer appears to be SEALION which is operating off Tana Fiord, but SEALION is safe.

Mining.

In view of indications that minelaying by surface craft and E-Boat operations may shortly begin to interrupt the passage of the P.Q. and Q.P. convoys to Russia, C. in C. H.F. has been asked to obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers with Russian experience their opinions as to what help we may hope to obtain from the Russian Naval Forces based on the Kola Inlet and White Sea.

The mine-clearance operations off the Nore by the 13th M/S Flotilla were abandoned today on account of the weather.

8 Red Mines were exploded by L.L. Trawlers off the Humber yesterday, and 2 more today.

MOST SECRET

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

DEVONSHIRE is to leave patrol and return to Freetown when her fuel remaining is down to 30%.

Whilst his cruiser force is reduced by DORSETSHIRE being detached for escort duty. C. in C. S.A. proposes to use BIRMINGHAM for a patrol of the calm area south of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from the Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. He wishes to keep a patrol in the calm area so long as U-Boats are operating south of 20° S.

With reference to the report of a U-Boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W. at 2130Z/5, it is ascertained today that no Brazilian submarine was in this position.

C. in C. S.A. is concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station.

Mediterranean.

M/V sunk by REGENT. — On arriving at Gibraltar today, REGENT reported having sunk by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, northbound, in 37.52 N., 11.52 E. at 2025/1.

Cruiser attacked by P.31. — F.O.(Submarines) considers there is strong evidence to support the claim of P.31 of having sunk one cruiser on 29/11, and suggests an Admty. message of congratulations.

Air attack on Naples. — 20 Wellingtons attacked the arsenal at Naples from 1930 to 0042 last night and obtained hits on objectives including the torpedo factory and marshalling yards and the I.M.A.M. airframe works.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/S Trawler KINGSTON CYANITE reported to Alexandria at 1715/6 that she was being bombed by 2 aircraft.

Malta was raided between 1945 and 0448 last night by about 20 bombers, probably JU.88's of which 8 crossed the coast and dropped bombs, causing civilian damage and slight casualties.

Libya Convoys.

There is evidence which suggests that Axis tankers or ships shelter in French convoys whilst en route to Tripoli.

East Indies.

W.S.12Z.

On the release of ROYAL SOVEREIGN from the Cape area to proceed to Singapore, C. in C. E.I. proposes to use EMERALD to escort W.S.12Z (16 ships with troops and supplies for Middle East) from Durban onward, and COLOMBO from vicinity of Mombasa.
Note: Later, orders were given for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to remain with W.S.12Z at least as far as the Seychelles, since it is not known what scale of attack the Japanese will bring on to our convoy routes.

Laccadives.

GLASGOW left Colombo today to search the Laccadive Islands on 8/12 and 9/12, LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. Opportunity is being taken of this patrol to exercise coastal defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea.

China.

Japanese Convoys.

Two Japanese convoys were reported by aircraft R/C early today, one of 25 ships, escorted by 6 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0516Z/6;* the other of 10 ships, escorted

/by 2 cruisers...

* This report could not be received direct at Singapore and delay in communication occurred.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Japanese Convoys. (Contd.)

2 cruisers and 10 destroyers, in 7° 40' N., 106° 20' E., at 0530Z/6, both steering 270°. A small force of 3 vessels was in 7° 51' N., 105° 00' E., at 0442Z/6, course 310°. C. in C. China considers this may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.

Vichy Ships.

Admty. directed at 1106A/6 that the clearance of Vichy ships from British ports should be refused pending further instructions. C. in C. China was given discretion to defer this action until the arrival of any more cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or Singapore from Indo-China.

U-Boat Campaign.

Mediterranean. An A/C from 201 Group, Alexandria estimates having hit a U/B with a bomb which caused a large explosion at 1140/6 in 32° 32' N. 25.08 E., and claims the destruction of the boat. C. in C. Med. reports the U-Boat to have been damaged.

U.S. Destroyer DECATUR believes she made a sound contact on a U/B in 51.54 N., 41.53 W. at 0912 G.M.T./6. An attack was made, but contact was not regained.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Guide for S/M C.Os.

Rapid expansion and consequent decrease of submarine and patrol experience of young Commanding Officers render necessary a narrowing of latitude allowed them in framing their ships organisation at sea in war particularly as about 1/3rd have little experience of trying areas.
I want methods of our most experienced and successful commanding officers formulated and passed on. I need your assistance in producing a comprehensive guide to this end in the form of a very early report which should include organisation and patrol routine stressing the changes found necessary as result of war experience and also hints and tips that have proved useful and will help young C.Os.
It is not intended to bind new C.Os. too rigidly but I should require justification by them for departure from principles that will be promulgated after co-ordination of your reports.
(F.O.S., 1216A/6 to Captains S.)

Administration of Destroyers.

Arrangements to be made by C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., and C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D. H., 1603A/6) See Lion Copy.

3 A.L.Cs. for Dover.

Your 1016A/5. It is regretted that owing to other commitments it is not possible to allocate these craft during December.
(Adviser on Combined Ops. 1951A/6 to V.A. Dover)

GLIMMAREN
BARDALAND
(Swedish).

GLIMMAREN and BARDALAND have sailed from Goteborg routed through 062° N., 003° E., due Faeroes A.M./8. If encountered on this route ships should not be molested.
(F.O.S., 2152A/6 to P.37).

Co-operation with Russia.

Oerlikon Equipments.

Reference the 50 Oerlikon equipments being supplied to Russia essential that users be informed (1) The cartridge cases must be greased all over with a suitable low temperature grease before loading into magazines.
(2) Trials are in progress, but ammunition has not yet been tested below minus five degrees Fahrenheit and the possibility of missfires, hangfires and short recoils below this temperature cannot be discounted.
(D.N.O. Bath 1645A/6 to R.A. Hermon Hodge).

/Message....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

Message 1737B/5 from N.A. Ankara re Russian Icebreaker MIKOYAN has been passed by War Registry to Admiral Miles with T.O.O. 2000A/6. (H.W.R. 6/12).

P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys. There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations may shortly commence to interrupt our supplies to the Russians. It is therefore under consideration to invite the Russian naval authorities to accept more responsibility for the safety of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the vicinity of the northern Russian ports.
Request you will obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers who have experience of the Russian convoys and Russian ports their opinions as to the assistance we might reasonably hope to obtain from the Russian naval forces based on the Kola Inlet and the White Sea.
(V.C.N.S., 2239A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Communications. Your 1201C/5 and Admiralty 608.AZ/4/11. Is watch on port wave still being maintained at Archangel for use by ships arriving at that port. (D.S.O. 2257A/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, reptd. SHEFFIELD).

Movements.

SCOTT. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0940/6).

BERWICK, OFFA. E.T.A. 0200A/7 OFFA in company. Boom 0245. Request lights as follows. If weather does not moderate intend to remain at sea for night. (BERWICK, 1056A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

RUBIS. Dundee arrival. (Capt. S.9., 1105A/6).

P.35. My 1533A/5. Amend para. 2 to read: dive by day to position 048° N., 008° W., thence to 046° N., 012° 40' W. (Capt. S.9., 1207A/6). Add to my 1207A/6 thence on the surface at C.O. discretion to 043° N., 12° 40' W. E.T.A. in last position 2359A/14. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (Capt. S.9., 1355A/6).

ONSLOW. E.T.A. 0715Z/7 from South East. Have no passengers on board. (ONSLOW, 1233Z/6 to A.C.I.C)

/KENYA....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

KENYA. Arrival C.S.10 in KENYA. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1345/6).

P.38. Intend to sail P.38 passing Needles at 1615/7 diving by day to patrol in the area given in F.O.(S) 1744A/2. Routed as follows. (Capt. S.5., 1407A/6).

P.511. Arrival S/M P.511 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1434A/6).

LESTO, BARANDA. My 1116A/5. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1602A/6).

RAMILLIES. Intend sailing F.O.C.3rd B.S. in RAMILLIES escorted by VANQUISHER, WITCH, and VOLUNTEER passing Clyde boom 1330A/8, to arrive Milford Haven boom 0930A/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1716A/6).

Operations.

Operations "Anklet" "Archery". Your 2243A/1. (N.T. in W.D.) It has been decided that Operation "Anklet" is to be carried out as soon as possible in the form recommended in your signal. It is estimated that the whole force will not be ready to sail from Scapa before 19/12.
2. It is requested you will report the names of Home Fleet ships taking part. Ships from other commands will be provided in accordance with A.M. 2335A/5. One Submarine TIGRIS is at present available. It is hoped to arrange a second. The Belgians will be PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE. Oilers BLACK RANGER and GREY RANGER. Store and ammunition ship GUDRUN MAERSK. Tug JAUNTY. Surveying ship SCOTT.
3. Operation "Archery" will take place simultaneously. (1st S.L., 0019A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Iceland-Faeroes Patrol. (CUMBERLAND). My 1917A/4. Para (D). Postpone 24 hours. (C. in C. H.F., 1023/6).

/A/S....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

A/S Exercises. My S.M. 00477 dated 4/12/41. Owing to the exceptional circumstances at Londonderry, and having discussed the matter with N.O.I.C. Londonderry, I am prepared to allow night A/S exercises to take place there as follows. (a) S/M to be restricted to diving along a line between 55° 18' N., 6° 49' W., and 55° 21' N., 7° 03' W. (b) S/M to be at a safe depth. (c) S/M to be marked by an illuminated towed buoy. (d) Hunt to be limited to 60 minutes. I have informed N.O.I.C. Londonderry that, as far as S/Ms are concerned, he may proceed with night A/S exercises under these conditions. (F.O.S., 1034A/6).

M.T.B. Engagement off Gris Nez. At 0120/6 R.D.F. plotted four vessels of varying size about 4 miles northeast of Calais steering westwards at 12 knots. M.T.Bs. 219 (S.O.), 47 and 48 with M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 were despatched to intercept, having recently returned from patrols as in my 1900A/5. With westerly wind force 4, state of sea was such that operations were just practicable although boats took over much spray.
2. S.O. appreciating that bright moonlight made an undetected approach impracticable, steered to intercept and attack at best speed. At 0230 3 miles N.N.E., of Gris Nez three enemy vessels rather larger than trawlers were sighted 2,000 yards distant on port bow. Enemy opened a heavy fire with 4 inch, some of it fused shell, and heavy machine gun fire, there being also numerous star shell probably fired from shore. This was clearly visible from Dover.
3. S.O. led in and fired torpedoes from 1000 yards without success. M.T.B.47 was ordered to abandon attack owing to unsuitability of target. M.T.B.48 had a miss fire and was driven off by gunfire in later attempts.
4. M.G.Bs. having steered more to westwards were three miles distant from the engagement. As they closed they met M.T.Bs. retiring and so did not get into action.
5. Enemy vessels which were later shown by information to be 4 M Class minesweepers entered Boulogne about 0430.
6. No casualties but some slight damage from shell splinters to MT.Bs. (V.A. Dover, 1102A/6)

Patrol. Night 6/7. 3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens at dawn.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1503A/6).

/Exercise....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Exercise L.4. A.M. 2005A/4 and Force 110's 0/459 of 6/12. Intend that following ships take part in Exercise L.4. during week beginning 15/12 provided they are available: KEREN, KARANJA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, BATORY, MACHARDA and SILVER SANDAL. (C.Q.II, 1750/6 to Admty).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. A/S crossover patrols by Catalina A/C commencing first light/6.
1. 62° 05' N., 08° 40' W. - 62° 15' N., 08° 37' W., - 62° 27' N., 11° 50' W., - 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W.
2. 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W - 63° 36' N., 14° 05' W.,-63° 40' N., 13° 50' W., - 62° 30' N., 12° W. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0004/6).
Ops. 2946/12. Two Catalinas of 209 are to return to U.K. leaving Gibraltar one hour before dawn 7/12 and to fly A/S reconnaissance en-route according to information available at F.O.C.N.A. After departure of Catalinas two replacement Sunderlands will leave U.K. to fly similar R/C en route Gibraltar. (H.Q.C.C., 1530/6 to 200 Group).

Mining.

N.P.7 A. Operation N.P. 7 A postponed owing to deterioration of weather.
(V.A. Dover, 0513A/6).

White Sea Approaches. Your 2212C/4. Request if practicable LEDA sweep channel daylight tomorrow and R/V with me off Gorodetski P.M. when further orders will be given. (M/S 1., 0937C/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel)
Your 0937C/5. LEDA not yet cleared of ice. Hope sail her shortly. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1044C/6 to M/S 1).

Operation Q.O. Operation abandoned, weather unsuitable. E.T.A. 1320. (S.O. 13th M/S F., 1051A/6).
Owing to weather operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow. Next date on which tides are suitable is about 16/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1744A/6).

/Sweeps....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Sweeps in Dover Area.

Sweeping carried out to 0800/6.
By S.A. and L.L. Trawlers. Q.Z.S. 258, Q.Z.S.191 and in Q.Z.S. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and Dover. Negative results. Q.Z.S.238 from C one buoy and alternative route as in my 1931/5/10 by Oropesa and S.A. trawlers in progress. (V.A. Dover, 1249A/6).

LANCASTER.

Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1610/6).

Humber.

The following eight mines were exploded on 5/12 by L.L. Trawlers. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1615A/6).
2 Red mines exploded today by L.L. Trawlers at 1249 and 1300 respectively. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1903A/6).

Thames Estuary.

2 S.A. mines and 1 magnetic mine detonated on 1/12 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1701/5.)

Navigational.

Dover W. Light Buoy.

No. 1 Light Buoy Light extinguished. W. Buoy off station. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A. Dover, 0936A/6) 59 Q.Z.H. Dover Area. W. light buoy missing. (Hydrographer, 1430A/6).

Iceland.

Request state of light and radio beacon North and East Coasts Iceland.
(N.C.S.O. Archangel, 2200C/6).

Technical.

Flame Thrower Trials in PATRIE.

It is desired to carry out preliminary firing trial of flame thrower installed in PATRIE at sea by day during normal operation of ship on 8/12. If satisfactory it is desired to arrange a trial with aircraft co-operation on December 10th for Admiralty staff departments and petroleum warfare department. For this trial PATRIE should sail not earlier than 1100. D.M.W.D. will advise A.V.G.O. direct regarding details of aircraft co-operation if C. in C. will allocate an area and time for trial.
(D.M.W.D., 1239A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Oiling....

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical. - Contd.

Oiling at Sea.

Your 2145A/16/11 and Admiralty 1210A/1. 600 feet British type flexible hose will be ready by 19/12. It is desirable that preliminary trials of this equipment should be made without delay prior to trials in Atlantic in DALE Class Oiler completing January/Rebruary 1942. BLUE RANGER is available on Clyde for this purpose which it is proposed should be carried out under your direction if you concur. (D. of Stores, 1606A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

ABEILLE 21.

ABEILLE 21 ashore on Lismore. Require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick, 0641/6).
Tug ABEILLE 21 on passage Ayr to Scapa grounded on Lismore Island and has lost propellor. Vessel has been refloated and being towed to Oban. Reported not making water. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1115A/6).

MALLOW.

Your are required to tow MALLOW from Londonderry to Belfast A.M. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0914A/6 to CAROLINE MOLLER) C. in C. W.A. 2330A/5. Intend sailing MALLOW in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER from Lough Foyle at 2200A/6. Weather permitting. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1314A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

LEVERNBANK.

N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 0727A/6 and my telephone conversation. Request service of FREEBOOTER to assist M/V LEVERNBANK ashore S.W. of Ewe Island. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1003A/6 to F.O.I.C. G). LEVERNBANK ashore W. of Ewe Island. Ship heading S.S.E. listing 25 degrees to port in dangerous position. Request Salvage Officer immediately. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea., 1231A/6). Your 1003A/6. Approved. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Position very dangerous and weather extremely bad. Further report will be made when possible to board ship. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1316A/6). Your 1231A/6. Representative of Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Company has left for Loch Ewe. Salvage Tug RANGER will be sailed as soon as available. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1407A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

/BURDENNA....

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BURDENNA IV (Water Boat). Grounded Aird Point during gale. Salvage will be attempted when weather moderates. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1011A/6).

EMPIRE BASCOBEL. (Tug). My 1233/3/12. Delayed with defects. Anticipate sailing about 9/12. (C. in C. Plymouth 1056/6).

LOOSESTRIFE. (Corvette) Cancel my 1032/5. Engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1124/6).

R.J. CULLEN. Position 058° 40' N., 024° W., (corrupt group?) 110° speed 6 knots, R.J. CULLEN in tow. Intend making Lough Foyle. (TENACITY, 1400/6).

VERITY. Asdic out of action oscillator shaft broken. Nothing can be done on board. Hove to in 059° 21' N., 009° 46' W. Not in contact with N.S.43. (VERITY, 1800A/6).
My 1800A/6. Suspect Dome may be missing. (VERITY, 1952A/6).

PROWESS. Tug KENIA left harbour 1140/6 to assist M.V. PROWESS. Entered harbour 1228/6 with PROWESS in tow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1846A/6).

NAROCZ. S.S. NAROCZ anchored 5 cables East of 54 F. Buoy with defective steering gear. (MALLARD, 2045A/6).
Departure DIVERSION to assist NAROCZ. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2245A/6).

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.14. Z.8. Will not now be included in W.S.14. (D. of S.T., 0922A/6).
NORMAN will not now sail with W.S.14 owing to defects. (D.O.D. H., 1630A/6).
On satisfactory completion of repairs request you will sail GURKHA for Milford Haven to arrive not later than 1200/9.
2. GURKHA will be required to sail from Milford Haven as extra escort for RAMILLIES breaking off with destroyers for Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.1710A/28/11.
(D.O.D. H., 1632A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Permission...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

W.S.14 Contd. — Permission is requested to include SILVERWALNUT speed 14¼ knots in convoy W.S.14 as ship will not be ready to sail in O.N.44. Destination Singapore with government stores and explosives. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1650A/4).

C.W.60. — My 1210A/4 and 1730A/4. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore, 1017A/6).

P.Q.5. — Your 1101C/6. LEDA reported at 1254C/6 that she is not yet clear of river and awaits Ice breaker. If possible LEDA is to R/V with me in Swept Channel a.m. tomorrow and escort P.Q.5. to Archangel then returning to Murmansk with SEAGULL arriving a.m./10. If R/V is not possible LEDA is to await arrival of P.Q.5. at Archangel. (1st M/S.F., 1340C/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

P.Q. Convoys. — Russian Naval Authorities have protested against frequent alteration in estimated arrival of convoys in (?North) Archangel. In case of P.Q.5 there have been 3 different times of arrival at point (?being) given which have varied as much as 36 hours. I consider that these complaints are justified. As whole work of moving our convoys in and out, shifting our ships from discharging to loading berths, and breaking in and out of Russian convoys carrying stores and ammunition to their Northern front at present devolves almost entirely on solitary ice breaker LENIN, such alteration involves entire dislocation of LENIN programme and severely disturbs the organisation of Port Archangel and Molotovsk which under present conditions is already very difficult. Request C.O.s. Escorts, and Commodores of convoys may be warned of necessity for adhering closely to programme as originally promulgated. Admiralty pass to all addresses. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1801C/6 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine Routeing.	Request acknowledgment my 2153A/4 with particular reference to position L. (F.O.S. 1038A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
URSULA.	U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity Alboran Island. (2) To avoid own night patrol do not cross 004° 40' W. before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA).
Fuel for Spanish Navy.	My 1100/28/11. Minister of Marine is pressing for reply. (N.A. Madrid, 1345/6 to Admty.)
Spanish Demonstration.	A fixed (as received, ? group omitted) was laid out by Spaniards position 309 (corrupt group) 4 at 1600 and about 8 rounds fired presumably as a demonstration. Wind N.E. 2 10 30. 42 80. (SCOTTISH 1800A/6? to F.O.C.N.A.)
ERICE sunk by REGENT.	REGENT arrived, reports sinking by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, Northbound, in 037° 52' N. 011° 52' E. at 2025/1. (ii) Stay of at least 4 days required at Gibraltar to make good defects. F.O. (S) pass to Capt. (S) 5. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/6, 1910A/6 to Admty.)
Spanish and French Ships.	1631/5 Spanish minelayer MARTE escorting Spanish transport CASTILLO-FIGUERAS in position 265° Cape Spartel 60 miles, steering towards Cadiz. Gibraltar 6/12, 0900, French survey vessel ESTAFETTE French armed trawler W.43 French ships FORT-DE-DOUAMONT, STRASBOURGEOIS, MAROC, all laden, THISBE deck cargo field kitchens, French trawler MONTCASSEL, AUGUSTE-DENIS West-bound. 1445, French armed trawler W.67 French ships TROPIQUE, THESEE, MONTAIGNA, PORT-DE-BOUC all full, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1927A/6 to Admty. etc.)
OLYMPUS.	Am crossing 005° 00' E. Request permission to pass 000° 00' at 0700/8 and arrive 0900/10. (OLYMPUS, 2235A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S Operations F.O.C.N.A. 2314A/6. See U-boat Campaign.

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA. Your 1807N/4. If stores for ALCANTARA are at Trinidad request permission to call there on passage to Newport News. N.O.I.C. Trinidad please advise accordingly. (ALCANTARA 0015Z/6 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad) Approved (C. in C. S.A., 1240Z/7).

F.J. WOLFE distress. Request information whether distress message 1058/5 (N.T. in W.R.) from F.J. WOLFE intercepted by St. Lucia radio has been correctly cancelled in code. (C. in C. S.A., 1142N/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Use of R/T. I am concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station. Grateful if you would instruct your escort vessels that the normal rules of W/T silence are fully applicable to R/T when on S.A. Station. Such orders are already in force for my escorts vide SACI.
F.O.C.N.A. 1656/2/10 refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 1146N/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
1556/2/11?

Suspicious tanker. On 3/12 pilot South Africa Airways sighted 2 masted grey ship with funnel aft apparently tanker anchored within a mile offshore from Santrosa near Porto Alexandria, nationality unknown. Identify if met. (C. in C. S.A. 1158N/6 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

ECHODALE. Cancel instructions to proceed Freetown. Proceed direct to Point Noire. On arrival discharge to BULLMOUTH as much of your remaining cargo of fuel oil as that ship can take then proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1216N/6 to ECHODALE).

DEVONSHIRE. Leave patrol and return to Freetown when fuel remaining is down to 30% and report when you do so. (C. in C. S.A., 1225N/6 to DEVONSHIRE).

CANTON. Proceed when ready to patrol H.34 C. Object interception of possible enemy supply ships Southbound. (C. in C. S.A. 1241N/6 to CANTON) Cancelled, see 2013/7.

Security measures. F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1307B/6. See Lion Copy.....

/Withdrawal...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Withdrawal of DORSETSHIRE. BIRMINGHAM.

Thanks for 1659A/3. I quite understand the position. (2) Whilst my cruiser force is reduced I propose using BIRMINGHAM for patrol calm area South of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. My 1059N/5 and A.M. 2331A/5 refer. (C. in C. S.A. 1247N/6 to Admty.)

Patrol of Calm Area.

My 1059/5. So long as U-boats are operating south of 020° S. I want to keep a patrol in calm area south of St. Helena. Now that DORSETSHIRE has temporarily left the station I shall have to use BIRMINGHAM for time being as I do not consider armed merchant cruisers sufficient. I realise your station work will suffer to some extent but I am afraid it cannot be helped. If you can arrange for your armed merchant cruisers to fuel without use of oiler ARNDALE suggest you keep her for fuelling BIRMINGHAM but further west than position given in your 0408/29/11. (C. in C. S.A. 1441N/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

U/B Report 4/12.

Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1501Z/6 to S.O.I. Montevideo). See U-boat Campaign.

Boats from sunk Raider.

My 2145N/2. There might be as many as 4 U-boats in the vicinity of boats. (C. in C. S.A., 1533N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

Movements.

My 1648/5 which is being passed to HECTOR (A.M.C.). Para. 2 for CARTHAGE read HECTOR (A.M.C.). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1623Z/6).

ASTER. MARGUERITE.

If (?nothing) seen in vicinity of position F steer due E. spreading by day ships ten miles apart to longitude of 005° E. thence to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A., 2311N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

German ship.

My 1112/29/11. (Report of sailing of German ship from Diego Samez). Ship stated to carry mica and probably graphite and to be armed. Graded A.3. (S.O.I. Capetown 2323/6 to Admty. etc.).

/CARNARVON.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. — Departure 1040/6. CARNARVON CASTLE. (S.O.I. Freetown 2345N/6 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

CANTON. — Departure 6/12 CANTON on patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown 2355N/6 to Admty. R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

CHAKDINA survivors. — My 2236. THORGRIM left area for Alexandria at 2315/5 with about 60 survivors. FARNDALE leaves area 0030/6 with 141 survivors, none seriously wounded, to rejoin ERIDGE and KIRKRIB (?KIRKLAND). (FARNDALE, 0010B/6 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

German Shipping. — Departure 5th German SULLBERG - Gandia in ballast. Expected sailing 6th Marseilles with oranges ATLAS. Expected sailing 6th OTTO LEONHARDT for Genoa, with pyrites, turpentine and oranges. (Valencia, T.H.I. 0530/6).

Enemy Units. — Following is a repetition of my 0745B/6 addressed C. in C. Med. A.S.V. Wellington reports one destroyer and one 4,000 ton ship (type unidentified) in 39.21 N. 19.38 E. course 140° 15 knots at 0410B/6 (Ends). (V.A. Malta, 0831B/6 to C. in C. Med., rep. C.S.7, S/M's on Patrol, KANDAHAR).

P.31, attack on cruiser. — S.10 1306B/5. There is strong evidence to support claim of one cruiser sunk. Suggest following signal be made to P.31. "Their Lordships congratulate you on your important success". (F.O.S. 1036A/6 to Admty.)

Enemy A/C. — Following has been read. 1 enemy aircraft shadowing convoy "Screw" in 31.44 N., 26.29 E. (A/C using call-sign ACU 1040/6 to Alexandria W/T).

/Libya.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya ships sheltering in Vichy convoys.	17951 I/34449 5/12. (1) Southbound convoy 6 ships previously sighted N.E. of Kerkena course 170 again sighted 1340/2 East of Kerkena course 220. Escort believed French destroyer and escort vessel. Ships now estimated as 3 freighters 4000 tons. 1 at 2000 and 2 Tankers at 5000. Malta considers convoy probably French. Sfax must be approached from South because channel between Sfax and Kerkena too shallow for approach from north for laden ships this size. (2) Combined bulk storage capacity Sfax and Gabes believed only 5000 tons oil fuel at most. Capacity these two tankers approximately 13000 tons. Neither town has export able to fill two such tankers. Insufficient French Naval units at present in Sfax to justify arrival tankers. (3) Suggest possible axis tankers (or ships) sheltering in French convoys whilst en route Tripoli. Tankers could reach Tripoli at dusk 3/12. (C. in C. M.E. 1045/6 to W.O.)
U/B.	Attacked and claimed sunk by A/C. (1135/6, 1140/6, 1315/6, 1335/6). See U-boat Campaign for these and other U/B signals.
PROTECTOR, Aden.	N.O.I.C. Aden 0802/3. Request you reply. (C. in C. Med. 1136B/6 to Admty.)
Russian Oilers from Black Sea.	My 1217/5. Have seen Russian commercial N.A. He (?advocated) orders to discharge whole of cargoes of present three oilers at Istanbul. (2) Admty. repeat to Adm. Miles. (Adm. Kelly, Istanbul 1243B/6 to C. in C. Med.)
Hungary, Roumania, Finland.	A state of war will exist with Hungary, Roumania, and Finland from 0101 B.S.T./7/12. (Malta W/T 1336A/6 to UPRIGHT).
NEREUS.	Greek S/M NEREUS leaves vicinity of Alexandria at 1700B/6 and proceeds through 33° 12' 29° 00', 34° 43' 26° 10' and thence direct to within 20 miles of 25° 22' 34° 58' where she should arrive during the night of 9th/10th. (Capt. S.1., 1511B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

/Destroyers.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyers. C. in C. W.A. 1113A/5 and Admty. 2216A/3. Administrative arrangements for reinforcements. (D.O.D. (H), 1603A/6) See ~~Lion Copy.~~ Policy.

KINGSTON CYANITE. Bombed by 2 aircraft. (KINGSTON CYANITE, 1715/6, to Alexandria W/T).

THRASHER. TRIUMPH. Leave patrol p.m./7 and return to Alexandria as follows: TRIUMPH through 036° 10' 021° 26', 034° 28' 023° 16', 033° 22' 027° 54', thence direct adjusting speed to pass 2nd position about 1900B/8 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/11. THRASHER through 038° 00' 018° 50', 035° 00' 021° 20', 034° 24' 025° 40' thence direct adjusting speed to pass 2nd position approx. 2300B/9 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/13. (Capt. S.1, 1715B/6 to THRASHER, TRIUMPH).

Enemy A/c. 1 Aircraft bearing 040° from me. My position 280° 15 miles from Ras el Tin (Alexandria). (DECOY 1717/6 to Alexandria).

Malta Raid. Night 5/6. 1945 to 0448 hours, total approx. 20 bombers, probably Ju. 88's approx. 8 crossed coast. Bombs land, sea. 5 houses demolished 2 slight civilian casualties.

Naples bombed. 20 Wellingtons attacked arsenal Naples. Over target 1930 to 0042 hours. Hits arsenal causing large fire black smoke up to 5000 feet. 4000 lbs. and smaller H.E. on torpedo factory, fire started still burning when last aircraft left. 4000 lbs 150 yards off target increasing fires already burning. Other hits and explosions marshalling yards, I.M.A.M. Airframe works. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/6).

ESPIQUETTE. (French). Departure 5th Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 1750/6 to M. of W.T.).

Eastern Medn. S/M movements summary 60.

S/M's	Estimated Noon pos. 7/12.	Estimated Noon pos. 8/12
THUNDERBOLT.	032° 22' 027° 54'.	Due Alexandria a.m./8
TRUSTY.	034° 36' 025° 12'.	032° 56' 027° 24'.
TALISMAN.	036° 30' 020° 44'.	Off Argostoli.
THRASHER.	039° 30' 017° 30'.	037° 38' 019° 08'.
TRIUMPH.	Off Navarin	034° 50' 022° 52'.

(Capt. S.1, 1751B/6 to Med. Fleet).

/CHAKDINA.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

CHAKDINA sunk 5/11.

CHAKDINA sunk by aircraft torpedoes at 2135/5 in 032° 11' N. 024° 30' E. when returning to Alexandria with about 300 British wounded and 100 prisoners of war. FARNDALE and THORGRIM have rescued about 200 survivors. (C. in C. Med., 1756B/6 to Admty.)

C.S.7.
KANDAHAR.
JAGUAR.

My 1528/6 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. Med. 1151/5 (N.T. in W.D. Further R/C blank. If nothing sighted be in dead area by daylight tomorrow and meet KANDAHAR and JAGUAR as convenient.
2. A.S.V. is not being sent to your area tonight.
3. Repeated R/C will be carried out tomorrow on assumption that target is 24 hours late.
4. If this is blank return to Malta.
(V.A. Malta 1802B/6 to C.S.7.)

Enemy Shipping Losses.

My 1723A/7/9 (to C. in C. Med. only).
Copies of reports of Enemy Shipping Losses Assessment Committee are being sent to you. Figures issued to Press will be based on these reports. To keep in line with this policy, it is requested that press communiques issued in Middle East immediately after any success should not contain details of tonnage sunk or damaged unless the facts are indisputable. Similar instructions being issued to A.O.C. Med.
(Hd. of M. 1809A/6 to C's in C. Med., E.F., E.I.)

Balloons.

Your A.112, 28/11 to Admty. Arrangements are now being made for despatch of necessary equipment for Aden Suez Balloon Shuttle service. Request you inform Naval authorities concerned.
(Air Min., 1830 G.M.T./6 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

PORPOISE.

At 0001B/8 establish patrol in area Q within 30 miles Pylos Light Navarin. Remain East of 021° 45' until 0200B/8.
(Capt. S.1, 1917B/6 to PORPOISE).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E. 2018/6 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

UPRIGHT,
UNIQUE,
P.34.

Exceptional vigilance is necessary against U-boats majority southbound passage of Straits probably at night. (Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to S/M's named).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.12 Z.
EMERALD
COLOMBO.

M.A.3.

Your 2318/5. (1) Escort can be provided from Durban onward and EMERALD has been detailed with orders to arrive Durban a.m./13. COLOMBO will provide onward escort from vicinity of Mombasa. (ii) My 1316/30/11 para.2 (b), DERWENTDALE is being escorted to Mombasa where she joins convoy M.A.3 leaving 8/12.
(C. in C. E.I., 0454Z/6 to Admty.)

Search of Laccadives, GLASGOW, LAWRENCE.

My 0826/5 (1) GLASGOW leaves Colombo 6/12 for Laccadive 8th and 9th, with LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. (2) I do not consider our purpose would be best served by a warship showing itself ostensibly off Marmagoa but GLASGOW will be on patrol off Goa between 014° (?40') N. and 016° N. on 10/12 keeping outside 200 fathom line. (3) Opportunity is being taken to make use of this patrol to exercise Coastal Defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea. (4) GLASGOW return Colombo 12/12.
(C. in C. E.I., 1334Z/6 to Admty.)

IPSWICH.

Have you any news of American IPSWICH due Vizagapatam 29/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D. 1835A/6 to S.O.I. Colombo.)

China.

Japanese Convoys.

Aircraft R/C reports one convoy of 25 ships with escort of 6 cruisers, 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0316Z/6. Second convoy of 10 ships escorted by 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 7° 40' N. 106° 20' E. at 0530Z/6. Both convoys steering 270°. Small force of three vessels in 7° 51' N. 105° 00' E. at 0442Z/6 ?course 310°. This may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.
(C. in C. China, 0745Z/6 to C. in C. A.F., N.Z.N.B., Admty. etc.)
My 0745/6. No further information and aircraft not now in touch but search continuous.
(C. in C. China 1431Z/6 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C.Z.M. Admty., etc.)

Japanese and French Shipping.

Following is Saigon's Vesca 174 in accordance with your 0342/2. Arrival 22/11 SYDNEY MARU; 25/11 ALBERT CARRAUT, TAI SEUN HONG. Departure 26/11 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL ALEXANDRE VARENNE, Macao; SI-KIANG, Manila.
(S.O.I. Singapore 0955Z/6 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Movements. Singapore arrival 6/12 ELECTRA, JUPITER, MANOORA departure (?) 6/12 DANAE for escort duties. O.16 and K.17 for patrol. Penang departure 6/12 DRAGON for escort duty.
(S.O.(I) Singapore 1003Z/6)

Vichy Shipping. Clearance of Vichy ships from British ports should be refused pending further instructions. Masters should be informed that they cannot be permitted to sail whilst the present tension with Japan continues. Decoux is to be informed of the circumstances. You have discretion to defer this action until the arrival of any more cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or Singapore from Indo China.
(Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1106A/6 to C. in C. China, Cdre Hong Kong.)

Japanese Air Bases. Following addressed C. in C., Far East, Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips, repeated Cdre., Hong Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. J.I.C.2. C.2 report American origin dated Hanoi 1/12 states two additional air bases have been completed on Island Phu Kok and two at Tani. A/A defences are being installed.
(War Cabinet Office, 1255A/6 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

Hong Kong Evacuation. Following policy being carried out as regards despatch of ships building, equipment, plant. (a) Bangors. My 1536/3 refers (re equipment for Bangors to be carried in ULYSSES). (b) Standard ships. EMPIRE DRAGON launches today, will load own machinery, boilers, equipment and leave in tow of ST. ?DOMINIC as soon as ready, about 6 days. (c) Plant and material from commercial dockyards earmarked for evacuation. All preparations being advanced as much as possible, loading of materials commencing shortly, plant being got ready. It is not intended to despatch unless orders are received for coasters to sail. Should situation improve shipbuilding work can then be resumed with little delay. (d) R.N. Dockyard. Machinery and equipment for Fairmiles 300 tons degaussing cable, plant, stores etc. as for (c). (e) Necessary ships for (c) and (d) are alongside. (f) European and some Chinese personnel will be sent with (b) (c) and (d).
(Com. Hong Kong, 1513H I/6, to C. in C. China.)

Australian corvettes. As an expedient intend to complete armament to following scale from local stocks. MARYBOROUGH and BENDIGO one 2 pounder Mark VIII and two machine guns each. BURNIE and GOULBURN one Holman and four machine guns each. Machine guns include two supplied to each ship from Australia.
(R.A. Malaya 0732Z/6.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MACBETH. Following received from LIVERPOOL. S.S. MACBETH was sighted 1430 G.M.T./3 in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. Reported bound for Boston, had been lying derelict for 14 days and that Naval tug had left her to refuel. Unable to investigate further owing to reported presence of S/Ms in this area (Admty 1356/3.). Shipping intelligence summary issued by C. in C. A. and W.I., gave ship of this name as being ex Italian IDA ZO. (Ends) T.O.O.1127Z/5.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0304A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. amended 1128A/6.)
C.C.N.F's 1819/5. Request you will sail tug ZWARTE ZEE with A/S escort to assistance of MACBETH.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 0723A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
ZWARTE ZEE is to be fully provisioned and sailed for Moville, Lough Foyle, p.m./7 to await A/S escort to approx. 047° 48' N. 034° 25' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1347A/6 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
Your 1819Z/5 and A.M.0723A/6. Request H.M. Tug PRUDENT may return to MACBETH as soon as possible with orders to tow her towards Clyde. Dutch Rescue Tug ZWARTE ZEE is being sailed from Campbeltown to assist in search for MACBETH and if possible take over tow from PRUDENT. Should be grateful if Opnav would pass this message to Comdr. Task Force No.4.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1458A/6 to C.C.N.F.)
Intend to sail ZWARTE ZEE for Greenock to complete with oil fuel at 2800A/6. E.T.A. 2200A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1625A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Sailed ZWARTE ZEE in accordance with my 1625A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1805A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DUC D'AUMALE (French). Departure 5th for Martinique 7th.
(La Guayra, 0815/6 to M. of W.T., S.O.I. Kingston 1252R/6.)

IROQUOIS. Your 1843Z/5. IROQUOIS destination Aruba for cargo. Diversion broadcast evidently misread.
(D.T.D. 1018A/6 to C.C.N.F.)

STRATHMORE. Your 2242/4. Diversion to Halifax not desired.
(D.O.D.(F) 1019A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

EXETER (American) Following from C.C.S.O. American EXETER sailed 0800/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1108Q/6 to Admty.)

/TURECAMO BOYS ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TURECAMO BOYS. N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F, reports American Tug TURECAMO BOYS (tug) sailed St. John's N.F. 15/11 bound for Greenland with CHEROKEE. Unreported since parting company with CHEROKEE in gale night of November 16th to 17th.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1519Z/6 to Admty.)

S.C.59. My 1916Z/5. S.C.59, Task Unit 4.1.14, add ST. CLAIR.
(C.C.N.F. 1529Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

ODVAR II (Finnish) C. in C. A. and W.I. 1259Q/2/12. Finnish ODVAR II approached Botwood Newfoundland 3/12 but did not enter. Ship is still at sea unreported.
(C.C.N.F. 1553/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

ODENWALD. Re capture of tanker ODENWALD. Detailed report giving track chart, disguise details of cargo names of crew has been received and is being forwarded. ODENWALD intended to R/V first at Orade 040° 19' N. 039° 09' W. at 2300/18/11 and secondly at Orfe 045° 29' N. 020° 42' W. at 2100/22/11. First R/V apparently urgent the time for R/V being described as Musszeit. After second R/V ship was to go to Bordeaux.
(B.A.D. Washington 1615R/6 to Admty.)
O.I.C. Comment. The German merchant vessel sunk by KENYA on 3/10 in 43° 26' N. 24° 30' W. had a U/B in company. It is possible the above R/Vs were for meeting U-Boats to provide escort into the Bay of Biscay. ODENWALD is not a tanker but had a valuable cargo of rubber.

T.C.16. A.M.1812A/3 and A.M. 1604A/6. Convoy T.C.16 should be sailed from Halifax N.S. on 15/12 to join U.S. convoy as directed by Opnav.
(D.O.D.(H) 1708A/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ALIAKMON NAMARIB. Have you any news of Greek ALIAKMON due Sydney C.B. 26/11 from O.N.35, and American NAMARIB due New York 27/11 from Trinidad?
(D.T.D. 1836A/6 to D.N.I. Ottawa) Reply 1827/7.

/DIDO ...

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

DIDO. Your 1732A/10/10 and DIDO's 1415R/17/11. Provided working up practices are not interfered with by weather DIDO will be ready to leave Bermuda 12/12. Request confirmation that she should proceed direct to Gibraltar. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/6 to Admty.)

CIRCASSIA. Your 1712Q/5. CIRCASSIA sailed 1907Z/6, departure delayed due to dense fog. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1926Z/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

F.J. WOLFE. Has F.J. WOLFE arrived, if so report if Q Q Q Q sent 1058A/5 was correctly cancelled in code. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1932Q/6 to S.N.O. Curacao) Reply: 1105/7.

Japanese Moves, Indo-China. Following for 1st S.L. President has informed Ambassador that U.S. Authorities are publishing what information they have regarding threatening moves of Japanese Troops and ships off Indo-China in order to prepare public mind for possible developments. President asks whether we can do the same and after consultation with me Ambassador has authorised publication tonight in Washington of substance of C. in C. China 0745Z/6. (B.A.D. 1951R/6 to Admty.)

Finnish Ships. My 2013Z/5. Disposition Finnish ships. PUERTO TARAFA CUBA 5th December for New York. Correction my 2013Z/5. For CARCORBE read CARIBE. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1958Z/6)

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

22422/5. By D/F at 2242Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was 46° N., to 47° N., 14° W., to 15° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0021A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

2200 G.M.T/5. (Med.) From D/F bearings German submarine was (? at) or near Bardia at 2200 G.M.T./5.
(Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0138B/6 to C. in C.Med.)

0105 G.M.T. (Med.) Following received from Aircraft. One S/M on surface in 033° 53' N., 023° 30' E., course 090° speed 12 knots at 0105 G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0455B/6, to C. in C. Med.)

2130Z/5. A report of U-boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W., course 180°, speed 5 knots, at 2130Z/5 has been received. Was any Brazilian Submarine in this position, or is any further information available.
(D.D.I.C. 1043A/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)
Following from B.A.D. Washington. (Begins.)
U.S. Destroyer CLEMSON reports Submarine sighted 060° 36 miles from 006° S., 035° West, course 180° 5 knots, time approx., 2130Z/4 (2 5)(Ends).
Could this have been Brazilian submarine?
(C. in C.S.A., 1055N/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)
Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information.
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1501Z/6.)
U.S. Destroyer reports S/M sighted 060° 36 miles from position 006° S., 035° W., course 180° speed 5 knots at 2130Z/5. No Brazilian S/M known to be in this position.
(C. in C.S.A., 2335N/6, to S.A. Stn.)

Alboran. U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity of Alboran Island. (2) To avoid own night patrol do not (?cross) 004° 40' W., before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA.)

P.M./5. British Air-Ways Pilot reports unusually large oil patch 10 miles W. N. W., Burling Island P.M/5/12.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1200/6, to Admty.)

/Following .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

Following received. Addressed Gibraltar.
Am over enemy submarine in 36.19 08.50. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted. Was on course 130°. Estimated speed 15.
(A/C call sign M.9.H.V. 1238/6.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1411A/6, 1412A/6.)

1310B/5. (Med.) 2 U-boats P.C. and S., 031° 56' 015° 39' 130° 12 at 1310B/5.
(P.34, 1700B/6, to Capt. S.10.)

1340B/6. (Med.) At 1340B/6 one S/M 246° Stamphani Island 75 miles, course south, 10 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 1745B/6, to Med. Fleet.)

Mediterranean. Exceptional vigilance is necessary against U-boats, majority Southbound, passage of Straits probably at night.
(Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE, P.34.

2200. FFF Course 135° speed 6 knots.
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn., 2200/6, to 200 Group.)
LLL One S/M 36° 40' N., 08° 58' W.
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn; 2215/6 to 200 Group.)
TTT Enemy Submarine previously reported has dived.
(A/C 202 Sqn., 2220/6, to 200 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. (Mediterranean) Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in position 28.33N., 25.08 E. Course and speed of submarine 334°, 8 knots.
(A/C call sign K7TY 1135/6.)

By A/C. (Mediter-ranean.) My 1130. (N.T. in W.D. 1135 intended?) have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimated one hit.
(A/C Call sign K7TO 1140/6 to 201 Group.)
(W.D. Note. C. in C. Med. 2137B/7 gives position as 32.32 N., 25.08 E.)
N.Z - Wreckage seen one bomb caused large explosion, anticipate total destruction.
(A/C, call sign K7TO 1315/6 to 201 Group.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. (Mediterranean.) (Contd.) — Suggest you inform 2 destroyers in position TK2Y 57° 40' 118 25 at 1110. (A/C Call sign K7TO, 1335/6 to 201 Group.)

By A/C. (Med.) — Position, course and speed of one enemy submarine 32.40N., 25.05 E., 315° - 7. Have attacked her with bombs dive and estimate no hits. (A/C K7T, 1510/6 to 201 Group.)

By A/C. — Am over enemy submarine in 36° 52' 09° 25'. (A/C Call Sign M9HB. 1545/6, to Gibraltar W/T.) Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge - when first sighted was on course 305°. (A/C Call Sign M9HB 1553/6, to Gibraltar W/T.) Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges and estimate no hits. (A/C M9HB 1555/6 to Gibraltar W/T.) My 1545, correct Lat. 3645 IND was stationary. (A/C Call Sign M9HB, 1642/6, to Gibraltar W/T.)

By U.S. DECATUR. — U.S.Destroyer DECATUR believes she made sound contact on S/M in 051° 54' N., 041° 53' W., at 0912 G.M.T./6. Attack delivered. Contact not regained, continuing search. (U.S.C.N.O., 1700Z/6, to C. in C.A.F.(U.S.) Admty., etc.)

By HELIOTROPE 26/10. — HELIOTROPE's report dated 2/11 of attack on U-Boat on 26/10. Request you will commence a Board of Inquiry into the failure of depth charge drill resulting in the probable escape of a U-boat. (C. in C.W.A., 1734A/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)

By VETCH. — VETCH attacking Submarine in approximate position 285 Tarifa 15. (STORK 2235A/6, 2332A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.) (Considered non-sub., see 7/12. Position 36-03N. 5.52 W. (D.S.824.)

/By A/C's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

By A/C's 5-6/12.

(1) A/S Operations 5/6 Dec.
At 1831A/5 Swordfish sighted periscope and oil track in position 264° Spartel 12' course 100°. Attacked with depth charges, large oil patch 300 yards across appeared subsequently.
(2) No sighting or contact during night of 5/6.
(3) At 1238A/6. Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.19N., 08.50 W., course 130° S/M dived and was attacked with four depth charges. No results seen.
(4) At 1545A/6 Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.45N., 09.25W., course 305° S/M dived and was attacked with depth charges. No results seen.
(5) Destroyer preceded by Catalina sweeps to Westward in vicinity of 36° N., to about 9° W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2314A/6, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Great Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania at 0101 B.S.T. today.

Hostilities commenced today between Japan and the British Commonwealth, U.S.A. and Netherlands.

At 2143A the Admiralty ordered the commencement at once of hostilities against Japan.

HOME COMMANDS.

It is believed that 5 Enemy Z-class Destroyers, some probably carrying Mines, together with one or two E-Boat Flotillas are now in northern Norwegian waters; and 8 Junker 88 aircraft were reported today in the White Sea approaches.

BERWICK arrived at Kirkwall from the North, ONSLOW arrived in Iceland, and OFFA at Scapa.

NORFOLK returned to Iceland at 1550 from the Denmark Strait Patrol where she found much ice.

C. in C. Nore has ordered that, from tomorrow, 2 Fleet Minesweepers are to meet the northbound Convoy at 51 Buoy and sweep ahead of it to 5 Buoy, where they are to await the southbound Convoy and sweep it similarly to 51 Buoy. When possible, also, one of the escorting Destroyers is to operate her S.A. gear.

Subsequent to O.N.45 the sailing of ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. Convoys is to be discontinued and these ships will be sailed from Loch Ewe in separate convoys, designated U.R., with trawler escorts, the cycle being 5 days. The return convoy from Iceland to U.K. will be designated R.U.

Enemy Air Operations.

An enemy R/C aircraft flew over Archangel and Dvina Estuary today. S.N.O. Archangel reports that A.A. fire was "pitiful" and the Russian aircraft could not go up as their oil was frozen. The safety of our merchant vessels under these conditions is seriously jeopardised.

/S.S. AELYBRYN ...

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

O.N.41.
EXPLORER.
P.Q.7.

Your 1628D/28. S.S. EXPLORER now on passage to Iceland (C) in O.N.41 due about 7/12 will be sailed in first available convoy probably P.Q.7 leaving Hvalfiord on 15/12 and due Archangel about 26/12.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1743A/5 to Ad. Miles.)

P.Q.4.

Details of naval armament stores for Russian authorities are as follows. Bills of lading and vouchers charging stores to rear Admiral Miles are being forwarded to you and you are requested to obtain receipts from the Russian Authorities on arrival of the stores.
(D.D.A.S. L. 2019A/5 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)

S.C.56.

SHERIDAN and TOLKEN in company have relieved ORILLIA. Remainder of A portion very scattered and unable to collect themselves owing to inability to communicate with TARBERT escort vessel and large errors in position.
MONTGOMERY and NARCISSUS joining me, remainder joining B portion. Canadian escort leaves B portion at 1900Z/5. Position doubtful, course 117°, speed 8 knots.
(BEAGLE 2101Z/5.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BRADFORD. — Your 2245/24/11 my 1230/4. Sailed BRADFORD to fuel Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

REGENT. — Keep sharp lookout for U-Boat. One destroyer patrol north and fore 20 mile East Gibraltar will keep north of 035° 50' and west of 004° 40' after 0400A/6. Aircraft co-operation by night. Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1110A/5 to REGENT.)
My 1110A/5. For (? 1) read 3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1706A/5 to REGENT.)

0.21. — My 1436/4 sailed 0.21.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1132A/5 to Admty., etc.)

SEVERN. — Adjust speed to cross latitude 035° 10' N. not earlier than 0730A/9 and R/V with escort in position (F) at 1400A/9.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1136A/5 to SEVERN.)

H.G.76, delayed. Search. — Your 2030/3 and A.M. 1835/26/11.
Pending further information convoy H.G.76 is to be held at Gibraltar. You will be given 2 days warning of date of sailing.
2. A.M. 1943/4 indicates the desirability of a re-orientation of your search. Suggest for your consideration that the modern destroyers and Long-range aircraft should operate in the more distant areas leaving the closure of the Straits to be maintained by the remainder of your A/S Forces and aircraft as at present.
(V.C.N.S., 1231A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A.S.V. Contact. — Your 1845A/3. 1. 800 feet. 5 to 6 miles. This height being best compromise between visual and A.S.V. requirements.
2. At first contact course is altered to keep target on bow and enable final approach to be made up moon. This permits of necessary identification and estimation of target movement with little chance of being sighted.
3. Final approach was made as for deck landing.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1302A/5 to Admty.)

JAY, SEVERN. — JAY in Fayal. Situation 2002A.
(ii) SEVERN estimated about 23.33 17.55 through 25.25 17.30 thence 050° 12'.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1328A/5 to A.I.G.64.)

/P. 35 ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

P.35. (1) Intend P.35 to pass through 043° 00' N. 012° 40' W. at 2359A/14, proceeding thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. to Gibraltar.
(ii) W/T Watch.
(iii) S.P's carried.
(iv) P.35 is painted grey with pendants in white on conning tower.
(Capt. S.9, 1545A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

URSULA. Your 1108A/4 and 2208A/1 and my 1853/4 passed via Rosyth at 1954A/4. My position 1800A/5 037° 16', 001° 36' E. permission is requested to pass point P and L 24 hours early to arrive at Gibraltar 0900/8. Weather report.
(URSULA, 1746A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AUDACITY. My 1804A/28/11. In view of short period that AUDACITY can now be operated with convoy H.G.76 and O.G.77 intend to sail her for U.K. as extra escort to H.G.76.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1758A/5 to C. in C. W.A.)

URSULA. Your 1746/5.
Your 1954/4 not received. Remain on patrol within 15 miles of position P leaving to conform with my 2208A/1. U-Boats patrol your vicinity. CLYDE on patrol within 30 miles African Coast. Own aircraft on A/S patrols to longitude 000° 45' W. Shift W/T watch forthwith.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2310A/5 to URSULA.)

U/B's. Sighted and attacked.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1800/5, 200 Group 1800/5.)
See U-Boat Campaign.)

UNA. UNA sails from patrol after dark on 14/12 through 044° N. 009° W. for position 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0800A/15, thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. for Gibraltar.
(II) W/T watch.
(III) UNA is painted grey with light grey figures on conning tower.
(IV) S.P's carried.
(Capt. S.3, 2145A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

STORK, JONQUIL. STORK, JONQUIL are to leave harbour at 0900/6 and rejoin Group 2. One Corvette is to return to harbour when STORK joins.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2229A/5 to WISHART, STORK, JONQUIL.)

MOST SECRET

5.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ECHODALE, ASTER, MARGUERITE.

Your 0427N/4 (1427N/4 intended.)
(a) ECHODALE parted company at 1645N/4 in 016° 45' S. 012° 50' W.
(b) ASTER, MARGUERITE, E.T.A. position (F) 1200N/7, speed 12½ knots.
(c) Intend approach (F) through position 023° 00' S. 006° 30' W. looking for survivors from CLAN MACBEAN.
(ASTER, 0001Z/5 to C. in C. S.A.)
ASTER 0001Z/5. If BIRMINGHAM has sufficient fuel I would prefer that she is not far from F while corvettes are passing through area on 7th.
(C. in C. S.A., 1017N/5 to S.O. S.America Sqdn.)

D.E.M.S. Ammunition.

Propose following stock D.E.M.S. ammunition be kept at Umbogintwini Depot. (Details).
If approved request ammunition be shipped to Durban to arrive March 1942.
(A.S. Simonstown, 0931B/5 to Admty.)

Enemy Supply Ships, Patrols.

Movements of U-Boats in South Atlantic as disclosed by D/F bearings show 4 in area where supply ship was sunk on 1/12. 2 might have fuelled from this ship and it seems that the other 2 fuelled about 19/11 in the vicinity of 010° N. 036° W.
2. This appears to indicate U-Boats are expecting another supply ship in area south of St. Helena shortly perhaps, a fruit ship sailed from French port vide Admty. 1812A/23/11.
3. Intend to maintain a patrol in Area South of St. Helena as long as possible, but until BIRMINGHAM gets back from Cape about 13/12 only DERBYSHIRE will be there.
4. A patrol further north, say in St. Paul's Rock area, also seems very important. Intend to keep DEVONSHIRE there to limit of endurance deferring repairs in ? U.S.A. and reinforcing her with CANTON shortly. Could C. in C. A. & W.I. provide patrol further westward, say in H 32 B?
5. Could CILICIA be detached from W.S.14 and be routed to Freetown west of Verde through H 34 to keeppatrol going. I could also defer CARNARVON CASTLE and/or ALCANTARA proceeding U.S.A. for refit if this is considered desirable.
(C. in C. S.A., 1059N/5 to Admty.)
Your 1059N/5. Concur that 4 U-Boats are probably in this area now, and that a supply ship may be expected shortly.
2. CILICIA will be detached from W.S.14 - as required by your para. 5.
3. It is not considered that prospects of interception in the "H" area justify delaying ALCANTARA or CARNARVON CASTLE.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2331A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

/DUNEDIN....

MOST SECRET

5.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DUNEDIN survivors. Your 1227/4. From B.A.D. Washington's 2107/2 the estimated position of rescue would appear to be about 3½° N. 21½° W. on 27/11.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1113A/5 to C. in C. S.A.)

CONSBRO. No reply having been received to my 1505N/22/11* intend to sail CONSBRO to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. S.A., 1118N/5 to Admty.)
* (N.T. in W.R.)

Shipping Diversions. Your 1714A/21/10. Please confirm Admiralty will divert shipping from Walvis Bay. No diversion received here for STAR OF CAIRO or SOULIOTIS (Greek).
(C. in C. S.A., 1130N/5 to Admty.)

SURCOUF. Admty. 1748A/2 para. 2. Request SURCOUF be sailed via Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A., 1139N/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ILEX. Further investigation confirms that the seizure is in the starboard H.P. Turbine and that this must be opened to ascertain the cause, in view of F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1251B/3 (N.T. in W.D.) intend to manufacture lifting gear locally which it is estimated will take about 14 days.
(N.L.O. Durban, 1250B/5 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

BALTAVIA. My 1128N/3. State of discipline in this ship is bad. Consider this is additional reason for her returning to U.K. where I recommend she should be paid off. Air Mail letter follows.
(C. in C. S.A., 1305N/5 to Admty.)

WEST CHETAC. Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1155/28. WEST CHETAC arrived Capetown.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1505B/5 to Admty., etc.)

COMMANDANT DOMINE, CEDARDALE, CARTHAGE. Simonstown departure 1200 G.M.T./5 Free French Sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE by inshore route for Durban. S. of A. 10 knots E.T.A. p.m./8.
(2) Capetown departure 0955 G.M.T./5 R.F.A. CEDARDALE by route R.1 for R/V with CARTHAGE outer end of Durban searched channel 0800 G.M.T./9. Thence in accordance with C. in C. East Indies 1500/1. E.T.A. Mauritius a.m./16. S. of A. 10 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1648Z/5 to Admty. etc.)
(Note: See Amendment 1623Z/6.)

/SEVERN ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SEVERN. Your 1350A/4/12. (1354A/4 intended.) SEVERN sailed 0800N/2/12. E.T.A. position (F) 0730A/9/12. My ? 2213N/2/12 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1831A/5 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Whale Catchers. Your 2220A/10/11 extract obtained from R.A.S. A.D. BUSEN 7 sailed in 1st group by order of Salvesen Agents, South Georgia, before names of catchers contained in above message could be passed to South Georgia. South Georgia requests information as regards BUSEN 6. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1853Z/5 to Admty.)

AUSTRALIA. Simonstown departure (?13)00 G.M.T/5 AUSTRALIA to eastward in accordance with Adty. 1655/3 S. of A. 15 knots, routed through following positions (k) 028° 10' S. 045° 10' E. (l) 024° 00' S. 064° 00' E. (m) 024° 00' 090° 00'. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1657Z/5.)

Mediterranean.

TRUSTY R. of P. Unsuccessfully (attacked) One Italian Destroyer GRECALE Class in 037° 46' 020° 25' at 1217B, steaming mean course 135° speed 18 knots. Gyro failure. 54 charges. My 1401B/28. Enemy approx. route follows. 198° Vardiani light 1 mile, thence to 270° for 3.8 miles to position 259° Vardiani light 4 miles, thence course 185° for 7 miles, thence course 155°. Weather report. (TRUSTY, 0006B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

Libya. Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E., 0202/5, 2337/5 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

U/B. U-Boat in 036° 15' N. 022° 45' E. estimated 050° 5 knots. Weather report. (TALISMAN, 0301B/5 to Capt. S.1.)

LESBOS. Unless visibility improves send whaler to lead LESBOS to convoy. (S.O. Force I, 0913B/5 to YARRA.) Detach FLAMINGO and one SOUTHERN to return to Mersa Matruh as escort for LESBOS to sail as ordered by S.O. Force I. (R.A. Alexandria, 1325B/5 to YARRA.) Sail at 1700/5 with LESBOS through route ordered for "Bosom" estimated S. of A. 5½ knots E.T.A. Tobruk 0330/7 Code Name "Bosom 2". Fighter protection required daylight hours 6/12. (S.O. Force I, 1514B/5 to FLAMINGO, SOUTHERN MAID.)

/On arrival ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

5.12.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

LESBOS. (Contd.)

On arrival off Boom turn back with SOUTHERN ISLE and reinforce FLAMINGO sailed as in S.O. Force (I) 1514/5.
(Alexandria, 2035B/5 to YARRA.)

A/C Services.

Your message 25/11 (N.T. in W.R.) B.O.A.C. H.Q. Cairo assure me that many of their aircraft en route to Lagos and to Cairo via Malta have called at Lisbon since 1/10. Those on former route still continue but latter route is temporarily in abeyance. Would much appreciate if active steps could be taken to remedy present state of affairs as French Squadron is beginning to think we have promised something we cannot put into force.
(C. in C. Med., 1001B/5 to Ambassador, Lisbon.)

Russian Tankers from Black Sea.

Visiting Istanbul re Russian ships Russian N.A. informed me Russian Minister of Commerce authorizes only 12,500 tons of oil products be discharged Turkey remainder to be all British. Very desirable H.M.G. and Adm. Miles impress on Russian Govt. we want oilers, not oil, and Turks require oil very badly; amount already delivered has had excellent effect. Urgently regard instructions to this effect be sent Russian Representatives in Turkey. Russian N.A. now states arrival second batch oilers has been postponed until first lot have been disposed of, and one of first batch cannot be discharged until authority is received from Moscow.
(Adm. Kelly, 1217B/5 to Admty.)
Thank you for your 1331B/2. Russians fully appreciate situation and are most grateful for your help. 2. I have already expressed views in your 1356B/4 to the Russians.
(Adm. Miles, 16?6D/5 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Ships.

Aircraft report 7000-ton ship one mile N.E. of jetty (corrupt group) 2 - 250-ton ships inside harbour 1030/5.
(N.L.O. 8th Army, 1236B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

U/B, Bardia.

U-Boat has been sighted heading for Bardia from northwest. It is thought she may be carrying supplies to garrison and may arrive p.m./5. There may also be one leaving from there. Attempt to intercept p.m./5. Leave area 0600/6 and return to Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1237B/5 to Capt. D.14.)

/ A/C Sweep.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

A/C Sweep, Derna. (cancelled)

Blenheims will carry out an offensive sweep off Derna tonight. Will not attack east of 023° 00' E. Swordfish will not carry out search from Fuka to 024° 10' E. tonight 5th/6th.
(201 Group, 1254B/5 to Med. Fleet at Sea.)
My 1254/5. Owing to weather conditions Blenheims will not carry out sweep off Derna tonight.
(201 Group, 1559B/5.)

Malta Supplies.

Middle East Supply Centre 1255/5 to Govr. Malta. See Lion Copy.

P.34.

Leave patrol p.m./6 routed as in your sailing orders to arrive Malta 0730B/8.
(Capt. S.10, 1301B/5 to P.34.)

Cruiser torpedoed by P.31 29/11.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41.
(a) 29/11/41.
(b) 3 Cruisers escorted NAVIGATORI Destroyers southbound. Weather rough detected by Asdic when deep. Fired at centre cruiser by periscope 100 track daylight dispersal salvo from a range rather over 4,000 yards. Observation impossible 40 minutes later owing to darkness. (c) P.31. (j) 3 hits target H.E. persisting very slowly for 7 minutes then loud explosion H.E. stopping. Remaining vessels continued, cruiser probably sunk.
(Capt. S.10, 1306B/5 to Admty.)

O.24.

Assume patrol in area O, 038° 38' N. 012° 58' E. 360 10 10. U-Boat may be expected to approach from West.
(Capt. S.10, 1317B/5 to O.24.)

UPHOLDER.

C.A.F.O. 1278/41. Details of unsuccessful attacks 27/11 on 7000-tons westbound laden tanker south of Spartivento Cape and 2/12 on 3 northbound cruisers escorted by 5 destroyers 20 miles north-east Cape Colonne.
(Capt. S.10, 1343B/5 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrivals 4/12, DECOY, NAPIER, HOTSPUR, GRIFFIN, DELPHINIUM. Departures 4/12, CHANTALA (corrupt group) FLAMINGO, HEYTHROP, WOLBOROUGH, AVONDALE, Motor Launch 1023. Arrived and sailed 4/12 SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN MAID, COCKER. Arrival 5/12 ST. ISSEY.
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1527B/5 to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

/LANCE .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LANCE. A.S. Malta's 1642B/1 not to Admiralty. LANCE in dock reveals abnormal corrosion of number of rivet points. (Details). Consider vessel should dock for examination in 3 months time or earlier if rivets necessitate it. (A.S. Malta, 1602B/5 to Admty.)

MIKOYAN attacked by A/C and E/B. Russian ice breaker MIKOYAN under command Lieut. Harkness has arrived Famagusta. Vessel attacked by night off Kastelorizo by E-Boats and torpedo A/C. Slight damage one wounded. Enemy obviously prepared for ships coming south and I would stress necessity defensive armament, which MIKOYAN did not possess. Please inform Adm. Miles. (N.A. Ankara, 1737B/5 to Admty.) MIKOYAN due Port Said about 6/12 to transit canal without delay and be sailed for U.K. N.O.i/c. Port Said is to report particulars of speed and (? endurance) to S.N.O. Red Sea repeated N.O.i/c. Aden, C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., Admty. (C. in C. Med., 1815B/5 to S.B.N.O. Suez, etc.)

Malta Raid. Night 4/5. 2007 to 0457 hours, total 26 raiders approached, 4 crossed coast. Bombs land, sea, some identified as German. Aircraft not identified. 11 houses demolished. 1 civilian killed 2 injured. No other damage. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1740/5.)

Sfax Air R/C. Your 1415A/4. Railway route Zuara to Tunisian border exists but lines not laid. No line on Tunisian side or sign of intended construction. No signs movement Zuara Tunisian border today. Zuara (? to) Tripoli under cloud. Movement in Sfax will be watched and reported, also movement to Zuara from there. (A.O.C. Med., 1830/5 to Admty.)

Russian Front. Estimate of dates the Germans may reach Caucasus. (N.I.D.16 to C's in C. Abroad 1926A/5.) See Lion Copy.

Movements. Summary 224. (C. in C. Med., 1947/5.) See Lion Copy.-

/Aircraft ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Aircraft and Supplies for Malta.

V.A. Malta's 1213/19/11. Owing to operational difficulties it is not intended to fly any additional Naval aircraft to Malta from the West until a modern carrier is available at Gibraltar.
2. It will not be possible to ship either engines, large spares or equipment to Malta from the West for a considerable time.
3. Arrangements made for immediate despatch to Malta in an H.M. Ship of following items (list).
(Hd. of Air Branch, 2142A/5 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, A.O.C. Med.)

CHAKDINA sunk.

My 2135 (N.T. in W.R.) FARNDALE, THORGRIM, picking up survivors ERIDGE proceeding Alexandria with KIRLAND.
(FARNDALE, 2236/5 to C. in C. Med.)
W.D. Note:- CHAKDINA sunk by A/C torpedoes 2135/5. See C. in C. Med. 1756B/6.
SOTRA searching for CHAKDINA survivors until 0700/6.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2318B/5 to C. in C. Med.)

TRUSTY.
THUNDERBOLT.

My 2317B/3 and my 1905B/2. (? Amend) route as follows: TRUSTY after passing 034° 36' 021° 50' proceed through 034° 36' 025° 25' thence direct arriving at Sanctuary 0530B/9. THUNDERBOLT after passing 034° 32' 022° 54' proceed through 033° 22' 027° 54' thence direct to arrive at Sanctuary 0600B/8.
(Capt. S.1, 2355B/5 to TRUSTY, THUNDERBOLT.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

WINDSOR CASTLE. Your 1645/25/9 and my 0502/3/10. Request report of anticipated date of completion of WINDSOR CASTLE. (D.S.T., 0204A/5 to P.S.T.O. India).

Marmagoa possible U/Bs. Search. (1) Reports from British Consul Nova Goa on recent activity off Marmagoa indicate that possibility of submarines or Axis supply ships being in that neighbourhood cannot be ignored.
(2) British Consular officers and Harbour Masters at Marmagoa who are eye-witnesses are convinced of presence of a submarine on several occasions at night between 10/11 and 29/11. Although I do not entirely share their convictions the evidence is sufficiently strong to necessitate a search being made for unauthorized ships in Laccadive and in neighbourhood of Goa.
(3) I have accordingly withdrawn GLASGOW from her escort duty in Bay of Bengal, ERINPURA and intend to arrange a search of Laccadive Island by air and ship forthwith. F.O.C.R.I.N. is being asked to lend LAWRENCE now at Cochin to join the search, and local defence vessel DIPAVATI will shortly resume A/S patrol off Marmagoa itself.
(4) At end of October it was reported Japanese LIMA MARU was hanging about vicinity Bombay and East coast of India. No further news of her received, but should such a vessel be met during search she would be sent in for search under Prize Manual article. 101.
(C. in C. E.I., 0826Z/5 to Admty).
Departure GLASGOW at 0930/5.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0938Z/5 to Admty etc).

Air Forces Iraq, Persia. Provisional instructions contained in our X.408 (2330/16/9) are cancelled. Following definition of responsibility for operational control of air forces and responsibility for development of air facilities in Iraq, Persia, Persian Gulf and Arabia has been agreed with India Office and is to take effect at once. A.O.C. Iraq under general direction of A.O.C. in C. Middle East will be responsible for operational and administrative control and development of all air forces and air facilities in Iraq., Persian Gulf, Arabia excluding Aden Protectorate, and in Persia up to an Eastern Boundary line which follows Meridian 60° E. Northward to Persian Coast thence to Kerman (exclusive to India) and thence to Meshed (inclusive to India) R.A.F. India will continue to afford assistance for development of Karachi - Aden Air Route as far as boundary of Aden Protectorate and Army will continue to carry out their normal duties in respect of development and maintenance of air facilities in area in which C. in C. India is responsible.
(Air Ministry, 1708 G.M.T./5 to H.Q., R.A.F., M.E).

/ROYAL.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN, W.S.12 Z. — C. in C. Eastern Fleet 1015/3, para. 4. Can you provide alternative cruiser escort for W.S.12 Z? (A.C.N.S. (F), 2318A/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

China.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet. — My 0801/2. C. in C. Eastern Fleet will take over command and administration of China Station at 0030Z/10 and flag of Vice Admiral Sir G. Layton will be struck at sunset that day. (C. in C. China, 0313Z/5).

Japanese Warships. — Saigon 3/12 arrived one cruiser, 4/12 arrived one destroyer KAMIKAZE class. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0317Z/5 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

World Control of Shipping. — Your 1631R/26 and N.S.H.Qs. 2238Z/26. Proposals generally concurred in, subject to following remarks. (D.T.D. App. V.C.N.S., 0146A/5 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

DIDO ammunition. — Your 1932A/27/11. DIDO embarked 920 boxes 37 mm. ammunition for transport to Middle East. In view of urgency of this requirement DIDO landed the following Q.F. 5.25 ammunition to provide additional stowage for 37 m.m. packages. Replacement of shell and fuzes will be required when ship arrives on station. (B.A.R.M., 0850R/5 to Admty).

Task Force 4. — My 1623Z/1. Delete TRILLIUM. (C.C.N.F., 1329Z/5 to Com Task Force 4, Admty).

Martlets ARCHER. — Your 2030/27, para 4, it is hoped that all Martlets will be brought by the 3 ships. ARCHER can accommodate 12. (B.A.R.M., 1604R/5 to Admty).

/Landing....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Landing of Aircraft in U.S.A. — Navy Dept. has agreed that aircraft from British aircraft carriers may be landed at the North Atlantic Station, Norfolk, Virginia, for training and maintenance which includes accommodation of repair and operating personnel. Number of Squadrons which could be based will depend on immediate situation and number of aircraft and personnel comprising each British Squadron. If it is ever intended to make use of this permission it is requested I may be given all advance notice possible. (B.A.R.M., 1610R/5 to Admty).

CIRCASSIA. — Leave Halifax a.m./6 and proceed best possible speed to establish patrol in square H.32 B. Object interception of enemy supply ship. Report anticipated date of arrival on patrol. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1712Q/5 to CIRCASSIA).

WARSPITE. — Approx. anticipated programme for WARSPITE Leave U.S.A. 10/1 arrive and leave Singapore 12/2 (fuel 750 tons), arrive Trincomalee 16/2 leave 20/2 (fuel 800 tons) arrive Suez 4/3. (B.A.R.M., 1720R/5 to C. in C. E.F. Admty. etc).

DESPATCH; DIDO. — Bermuda arrivals DESPATCH, DIDO, H.M.C.S. ELK and VISON. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1733Q/5 to Admty).

PRUDENT towage of MACBETH. — PRUDENT returned St. John's N.F. having left MACBETH in 047° 58' N., 034° 25' W., noon/3 drifting E.N.E. average speed 2 knots. PRUDENT reports that towing ship to the westward is almost impossible in prevailing weather and recommends MACBETH should be towed to nearest U.K. or Northern Ireland port. Can tug be sent from U.K. to salvage this ship as PRUDENT most urgently required in St. John's N.F. area? PRUDENT reports MACBETH still able to make W/T. (C.C.N.F., 1819Z/5 to Admty).

IROQUOIS, MACBETH. — S.S. IROQUOIS has arrived St. Johns reporting she was diverted by Admty 1200/3. Ship was bound to New York for repairs and to load cargo. Repairs cannot be carried out here. Master however thinks that since ship has seaworthy certificate and is fitted with deep sea towing gear Admiralty may have had towing job in mind. Was ship sent in connection with S.S. MACBETH who is still drifting, see my 1912Z/2?. Rescue tug PRUDENT has just returned St. Johns now refuelling. (C.C.N.F., 1843Z/5, 1943Z/5 to Admty). Reply 1018A/6.

/S.C.59...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S.C.59. (i) Task unit 4.1.14 BURNHAM (S.O.) CHILLIWACK, NAPANEE, ALGOMA, TRILLIUM, DRUMHELLER, SUMMERSIDE.
(ii) Wabana, Nil. (C.C.N.F., 1916Z/5 to Admty etc) See also 1529/6.

Finnish Ships. Your 1259/2 to A. and W.I. Station only.
Following is disposition of Finnish and ex-Finnish Ships in Ottawa Area. At Sea.
Norfolk 24/11 OLLVAR 11 (Fin) Botwood Nfld. 3/12.
Cardenas 27/11 KUURTANES (Fin) New York Blank.
New York 26/11 WEPUNEN (Fin) Matanzas Cuba. Blank.
(P.K.) Blank ROLFSBORG (ex Fin. now British)
Halifax 18/11.
Santa Cruz 25/11 PANDIA (ex Fin. New York now Pan.) Blank.
Louisburg?us 19/11 DELAWARE (ex Fin. now Pan)
Galveston 2/12.
Norfolk 15/11 ex ATLASI (Fin. now ATLASFRI Pan).
Guadiloupe, Blank.
Trinidad 26/11 ex SIGGY (Fin.) Mobile now HONDU (Honduras). 2/12.
Buenos Aires 22/11 ex MATHILDA THORDEN (Fin.) now AMAZON (Pan). Boston Blank.
Boston Blank in port, five Finnish Ships AAGOT Baltimore, ADVANCE Philadelphia, ANNEBERG Halifax, AURORA Norfolk, SAIMAA New York. Six ex-Finnish Ships. Old name. New name Location CAROLUS now British Halifax. ERICUS now British HAMILTON inlet Labrador. KEMI, OLIVIA (Pan). Boston. KOURA, CARIBE (Cuban) New York. KURIKKA now Panamanian New York. MARISA THORDEN now Panamanian Baltimore.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2013Z/5 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

GARLAND defects. My 2056Z/2. GARLAND A/S defects and hull damage (details) will be completed P.M./9. Docking has also disclosed slack bushes in both "A" brackets. Work would require two to three weeks to complete and would entail delay in completion of other ships. Propose therefore to sail AGAMEMNON, CALIFORNIA and GARLAND P.M./10. Request route. (C.O.A.C., 2020Z/5 to Admty).

O.N.43. Escort Unit 4.1.6 composed of WOOLSEY ROE LEA MACLEISH DUPONT BERNADOU designated. (Opnav, 2108/5 to Admty).

CLARKIA. My 2252Q/4 proceed to Jamaica to attend on INDOMITABLE. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2152Q/5 to CLARKIA).

/W.S.12 X...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

W.S.12 X. B.A.D. Washington's 1807/4. N.O.I.C. Simonstown is requested to reduce period of stay of W.S.12 X. at Capetown to a minimum. N.O.I.C. Simonstown's 1536/28/10 applies.
2. W.O. are signalling separate instructions to Capetown to ensure that length of stay is only governed by time taken to refuel and revictual. (D.O.D. (F) 2319A/5 to B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

S.C.58. St. John's N.F. 5/12/1941. Arrivals ALYSSE Ex. S.C.56, PRUDENT ex MACBETH. Departures ST. LAURENT, HEPATICA, BUCTOUCHE, NASTURTIUM, PICTOU MOOSEJAW, WINDFLOWER to S.C.58.
(C.C.N.F., 2319Z/5 to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

SYDNEY, PARAMATTA. Your 2308A/2. Acknowledgment of message of sympathy of Board of Admiralty.
(A.C.N.B., 0439Z/5 to Admty).

U.S.15. My 1400M/21/11, D. of S.T.s. 0328A/22/11 (0327/22 intended) May Tank Brigade 3600 be accommodated in U.S.15 making total New Zealand personnel for despatch late February 6260?
(N.Z.N.B., 1020M/5 to A.C.N.B.)

Noumea. A.M. 1334A/5 (N.T. in W.D.) Visit to Noumea proposed in F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT 0800/25/11 should be included. (D.O.D. (F) 2149A/5 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

FJORD (sunk 2/12). CAFO 770/40. My 1748A/3/12. W/T books in Wireless Office, remaining C.B's in Chart Room and Masters cabin. All went down with ship which sank within 90 secs. in approx. 40 fathoms off Estepona Light. Compromise possible although unlikely. 2. 20 survivors, total crew 34 including 4 British. Master, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer lost. 3. Following only British members of crew arrived Gibraltar 4/12 (list). Remaining survivors at La Linea. 4. Ship believed sunk within territorial waters. Master known to have stressed importance of this. Survivor (estimate?) within swimming distance of shore. 5. Second Mate, Third Engineer and W/T Operator only Officers saved. 6. Information from W/T Operator. (F.O.C.N.A. 1058A/5 to Admty.)

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. My 1528/3. Portuguese Destroyer VOUGA has returned to Ponta Delgada having found nothing. Left Ponta Delgada a.m. today for Lisbon. (N.A. Lisbon 1109/5 to Admty.)

CLAN MACBEAN. ASTER's 0001Z/5 (see South Atlantic) Have you any definite information that CLAN MACBEAN has been sunk? (D.T.D. 1546A/5 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1216/7.

Submarines Reported.

0057. By D/F Bearing estimated that Italian U-boat is within 200 miles of 031° 00' N. 034° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0057A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

2355/4. Sunderland sighted U-boat at 2355A/4 in 36° 24' N. 9° 13' W. course 240°. (F.O.C.N.A., 0901A/5 to N.A. Stn.)

12060. By D/F at 12060/5 U-boat in vicinity of 071° 09' N. 027° 40' E. (2) SEAWOLF sails 14300/5 for zone 4.A by route B and parallel 071° 40' N. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1244C/5 to SEALION).

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats. (D.D.I.C. 1418A/5, 1419A/5).

/1340.....

War Diary. 5.12.1941. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1340. PPP Am over enemy S/M in position 268 SPA 55. (A/C F. of No. 202 Sqn. 1340/5 to Gibraltar W/T) Enemy S/M previously reported periscope only sighted. Surfacing then dived. (A/C F. of No. 202 Squadron 1350/5 to Gibraltar W/T).

0906Z. Bearing by D/F at 0906Z/5, position of enemy U-boat was 071° 09' N. 027° 40' E. unreliable fix. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1245C/5 to Admty.)

Gibraltar A/C. Aircraft sighted U-boats as follows (a) Sunderland at2355/4th in 036° 24' N. 009° 13' W. No attack. (b) Catalina at 1340/5 in 268° Spartel 55 (? miles). No attack. (c) Hudson at 1520/5 in 036° 40' N. 010° 02' W, attacked with 2 depth charges. Dark oil appeared. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/5 to Admty, 200 Group 1800/5 to Air Min.)

1839. 1 submarine bearing 264° from Spartel 12 miles. (A/C 202 Sqdn., Duty V., 1839/5 to Gib. W/T).

2130Z. U.S. Destroyer CLEMSON reports S/M sighted 60° 36' from position 06° S. 35° W. course 180° 5 knots. Time approx. 2130Z. (B.A.D., 2215R/5 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

2031Z. By D/F at 2031Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was approx. 48° N. 10° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 2251A/5 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

Mediterranean. See Foreign Stations, Mediterranean.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 0230 today M.T.B's 219, 47, and 48, which at 0120 had been ordered to intercept four M-class Enemy Minesweepers steering westwards off Calais sighted 3 of the Minesweepers about 3 miles N.N.E. of Gris Nez. M.T.B. 219 fired torpedoes at 1000 yards without success, M.T.B. 47 was ordered to abandon the attack, and M.T.B. 48 had a missfire and was later driven off by heavy 4-inch and M.G. fire. Numerous star shells, probably fired from the French shore, were clearly seen from Dover during the engagement; and M.G.B's 324 and 330, which had also been ordered to intercept, did not get into action. Our M.T.B's suffered no casualties but were all slightly damaged by shell splinters. The Minesweepers entered Boulogne at about 0430.

S/M P.511, which grounded yesterday in Lough Foyle, reached the Clyde safely at 1434A today.

The German official communique at 1300 today stated that two British S/M's had been sunk off the coast of Norway. The only possible S/M to which this claim could refer appears to be SEALION which is operating off Tana Fiord, but SEALION is safe.

Mining.

In view of indications that minelaying by surface craft and E-Boat operations may shortly begin to interrupt the passage of the P.Q. and Q.P. convoys to Russia, C. in C. H.F. has been asked to obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers with Russian experience their opinions as to what help we may hope to obtain from the Russian Naval Forces based on the Kola Inlet and White Sea.

The mine-clearance operations off the Nore by the 13th M/S Flotilla were abandoned today on account of the weather.

8 Red Mines were exploded by L.L. Trawlers off the Humber yesterday, and 2 more today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

DEVONSHIRE is to leave patrol and return to Freetown when her fuel remaining is down to 30%.

Whilst his cruiser force is reduced by DORSETSHIRE being detached for escort duty. C. in C. S.A. proposes to use BIRMINGHAM for a patrol of the calm area south of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from the Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. He wishes to keep a patrol in the calm area so long as U-Boats are operating south of 20° S.

With reference to the report of a U-Boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W. at 2130Z/5, it is ascertained today that no Brazilian submarine was in this position.

C. in C. S.A. is concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station.

Mediterranean.

M/V sunk by REGENT.

On arriving at Gibraltar today, REGENT reported having sunk by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, northbound, in 37.52 N., 11.52 E. at 2025/1.

Cruiser attacked by P.31.

F.O.(Submarines) considers there is strong evidence to support the claim of P.31 of having sunk one cruiser on 29/11, and suggests an Admty. message of congratulations.

Air attack on Naples.

20 Wellingtons attacked the arsenal at Naples from 1930 to 0042 last night and obtained hits on objectives including the torpedo factory and marshalling yards and the I.M.A.M. airframe works.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Air Operations.

A/S Trawler KINGSTON CYANITE reported to Alexandria at 1715/6 that she was being bombed by 2 aircraft.

Malta was raided between 1945 and 0448 last night by about 20 bombers, probably JU.88's of which 8 crossed the coast and dropped bombs, causing civilian damage and slight casualties.

Libya Convoys.

There is evidence which suggests that Axis tankers or ships shelter in French convoys whilst en route to Tripoli.

East Indies.

W.S.12Z.

On the release of ROYAL SOVEREIGN from the Cape area to proceed to Singapore, C. in C. E.I. proposes to use EMERALD to escort W.S.12Z (16 ships with troops and supplies for Middle East) from Durban onward, and COLOMBO from vicinity of Mombasa.
Note: Later, orders were given for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to remain with W.S.12Z at least as far as the Seychelles, since it is not known what scale of attack the Japanese will bring on to our convoy routes.

Laccadives.

GLASGOW left Colombo today to search the Laccadive Islands on 8/12 and 9/12, LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. Opportunity is being taken of this patrol to exercise coastal defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea.

China.

Japanese Convoys.

Two Japanese convoys were reported by aircraft R/C early today, one of 25 ships, escorted by 6 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0516Z/6;* the other of 10 ships, escorted

/by 2 cruisers...

* This report could not be received direct at Singapore and delay in communication occurred.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Japanese Convoys. (Contd.)

2 cruisers and 10 destroyers, in 7° 40' N., 106° 20' E., at 0530Z/6, both steering 270°. A small force of 3 vessels was in 7° 51' N., 105° 00' E., at 0442Z/6, course 310°. C. in C. China considers this may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.

Vichy Ships.

Admty. directed at 1106A/6 that the clearance of Vichy ships from British ports should be refused pending further instructions. C. in C. China was given discretion to defer this action until the arrival of any more cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or Singapore from Indo-China.

U-Boat Campaign.

Mediterranean.

An A/C from 201 Group, Alexandria estimates having hit a U/B with a bomb which caused a large explosion at 1140/6 in 32° 32' N. 25.08 E., and claims the destruction of the boat. C. in C. Med. reports the U-Boat to have been damaged.

U.S. Destroyer DECATUR believes she made a sound contact on a U/B in 51.54 N., 41.53 W. at 0912 G.M.T./6. An attack was made, but contact was not regained.

MOST SECRET.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Guide for S/M C.Os.

Rapid expansion and consequent decrease of submarine and patrol experience of young Commanding Officers render necessary a narrowing of latitude allowed them in framing their ships organisation at sea in war particularly as about 1/3rd have little experience of trying areas.
I want methods of our most experienced and successful commanding officers formulated and passed on. I need your assistance in producing a comprehensive guide to this end in the form of a very early report which should include organisation and patrol routine stressing the changes found necessary as result of war experience and also hints and tips that have proved useful and will help young C.Os.
It is not intended to bind new C.Os. too rigidly but I should require justification by them for departure from principles that will be promulgated after co-ordination of your reports.
(F.O.S., 1216A/6 to Captains S.)

Administration of Destroyers.

Arrangements to be made by C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H., and C. in C. W.A.
(D.O.D. H., 1603A/6) See Lion Copy.

3 A.L.Cs. for Dover.

Your 1016A/5. It is regretted that owing to other commitments it is not possible to allocate these craft during December.
(Adviser on Combined Ops. 1951A/6 to V.A. Dover)

GLIMMAREN BARDALAND (Swedish).

GLIMMAREN and BARDALAND have sailed from Goteborg routed through 062° N., 003° E., due Faeroes A.M./8. If encountered on this route ships should not be molested.
(F.O.S., 2152A/6 to P.37).

Co-operation with Russia.

Oerlikon Equipments.

Reference the 50 Oerlikon equipments being supplied to Russia essential that users be informed (1) The cartridge cases must be greased all over with a suitable low temperature grease before loading into magazines.
(2) Trials are in progress, but ammunition has not yet been tested below minus five degrees Fahrenheit and the possibility of missfires, hangfires and short recoils below this temperature cannot be discounted.
(D.N.O. Bath 1645A/6 to R.A. Hermon Hodge).

/Message....

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia. - Contd.

Message 1737B/5 from N.A. Ankara re Russian Icebreaker MIKOYAN has been passed by War Registry to Admiral Miles with T.O.O. 2000A/6. (H.W.R. 6/12).

P.Q. and Q.P. Convoys. There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations may shortly commence to interrupt our supplies to the Russians. It is therefore under consideration to invite the Russian naval authorities to accept more responsibility for the safety of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the vicinity of the northern Russian ports.
Request you will obtain from Flag and Commanding Officers who have experience of the Russian convoys and Russian ports their opinions as to the assistance we might reasonably hope to obtain from the Russian naval forces based on the Kola Inlet and the White Sea.
(V.C.N.S., 2239A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Communications. Your 1201C/5 and Admiralty 608.AZ/4/11. Is watch on port wave still being maintained at Archangel for use by ships arriving at that port. (D.S.O. 2257A/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel, reptd. SHEFFIELD).

Movements.

SCOTT. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 0940/6).

BERWICK, OFFA. E.T.A. 0200A/7 OFFA in company. Boom 0245. Request lights as follows. If weather does not moderate intend to remain at sea for night. (BERWICK, 1056A/6 to A.C.O.S.)

RUBIS. Dundee arrival. (Capt. S.9., 1105A/6).

P.35. My 1533A/5. Amend para. 2 to read: dive by day to position 048° N., 008° W., thence to 046° N., 012° 40' W. (Capt. S.9., 1207A/6). Add to my 1207A/6 thence on the surface at C.O. discretion to 043° N., 12° 40' W. E.T.A. in last position 2359A/14. Thence as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (Capt. S.9., 1355A/6).

ONSLOW. E.T.A. 0715Z/7 from South East. Have no passengers on board. (ONSLOW, 1233Z/6 to A.C.I.C)

/KENYA....

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

KENYA. Arrival C.S.10 in KENYA. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1345/6).

P.38. Intend to sail P.38 passing Needles at 1615/7 diving by day to patrol in the area given in F.O.(S) 1744A/2. Routed as follows. (Capt. S.5., 1407A/6).

P.511. Arrival S/M P.511 escorted by CUTTY SARK. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1434A/6).

LESTO, BARANDA. My 1116A/5. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1602A/6).

RAMILLIES. Intend sailing F.O.C.3rd B.S. in RAMILLIES escorted by VANQUISHER, WITCH, and VOLUNTEER passing Clyde boom 1330A/8, to arrive Milford Haven boom 0930A/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1716A/6).

Operations.

Operations "Anklet" "Archery". Your 2243A/1. (N.T. in W.D.) It has been decided that Operation "Anklet" is to be carried out as soon as possible in the form recommended in your signal. It is estimated that the whole force will not be ready to sail from Scapa before 19/12.
2. It is requested you will report the names of Home Fleet ships taking part. Ships from other commands will be provided in accordance with A.M. 2335A/5. One Submarine TIGRIS is at present available. It is hoped to arrange a second. The Belgians will be PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE. Oilers BLACK RANGER and GREY RANGER. Store and ammunition ship GUDRUN MAERSK. Tug JAUNTY. Surveying ship SCOTT.
3. Operation "Archery" will take place simultaneously. (1st S.L., 0019A/6 to C. in C. H.F.)

Iceland-Faeroes Patrol. (CUMBERLAND). My 1917A/4. Para (D). Postpone 24 hours. (C. in C. H.F., 1023/6).

/A/S....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

A/S Exercises.

My S.M. 00477 dated 4/12/41. Owing to the exceptional circumstances at Londonderry, and having discussed the matter with N.O.I.C. Londonderry, I am prepared to allow night A/S exercises to take place there as follows. (a) S/M to be restricted to diving along a line between 55° 18' N., 6° 49' W., and 55° 21' N., 7° 03' W. (b) S/M to be at a safe depth. (c) S/M to be marked by an illuminated towed buoy. (d) Hunt to be limited to 60 minutes. I have informed N.O.I.C. Londonderry that, as far as S/Ms are concerned, he may proceed with night A/S exercises under these conditions. (F.O.S., 1034A/6).

M.T.B. Engagement off Gris Nez.

At 0120/6 R.D.F. plotted four vessels of varying size about 4 miles northeast of Calais steering westwards at 12 knots. M.T.Bs. 219 (S.O.), 47 and 48 with M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 were despatched to intercept, having recently returned from patrols as in my 1900A/5. With westerly wind force 4, state of sea was such that operations were just practicable although boats took over much spray.
2. S.O. appreciating that bright moonlight made an undetected approach impracticable, steered to intercept and attack at best speed. At 0230 3 miles N.N.E., of Gris Nez three enemy vessels rather larger than trawlers were sighted 2,000 yards distant on port bow. Enemy opened a heavy fire with 4 inch, some of it fused shell, and heavy machine gun fire, there being also numerous star shell probably fired from shore. This was clearly visible from Dover.
3. S.O. led in and fired torpedoes from 1000 yards without success. M.T.B.47 was ordered to abandon attack owing to unsuitability of target. M.T.B.48 had a miss fire and was driven off by gunfire in later attempts.
4. M.G.Bs. having steered more to westwards were three miles distant from the engagement. As they closed they met M.T.Bs. retiring and so did not get into action.
5. Enemy vessels which were later shown by information to be 4 M Class minesweepers entered Boulogne about 0430.
6. No casualties but some slight damage from shell splinters to MT.Bs. (V.A. Dover, 1102A/6)

Patrol.

Night 6/7. 3 A/S Trawlers patrolling Q.Z.S. 271 returning to St. Helens at dawn.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1503A/6).

/Exercise....

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Exercise L.4. A.M. 2005A/4 and Force 110's 0/459 of 6/12. Intend that following ships take part in Exercise L.4. during week beginning 15/12 provided they are available: KEREN, KARANJA, WINCHESTER CASTLE, LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, BATORY, MACHARDA and SILVER SANDAL. (C.Q.II, 1750/6 to Admty).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. A/S crossover patrols by Catalina A/C commencing first light/6.
1. 62° 05' N., 08° 40' W. - 62° 15' N., 08° 37' W., - 62° 27' N., 11° 50' W., - 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W.
2. 62° 37' N., 11° 43' W - 63° 36' N., 14° 05' W.,-63° 40' N., 13° 50' W., - 62° 30' N., 12° W. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0004/6).

Ops. 2946/12. Two Catalinas of 209 are to return to U.K. leaving Gibraltar one hour before dawn 7/12 and to fly A/S reconnaissance en-route according to information available at F.O.C.N.A. After departure of Catalinas two replacement Sunderlands will leave U.K. to fly similar R/C en route Gibraltar. (H.Q.C.C., 1530/6 to 200 Group).

Mining.

N.P.7 A. Operation N.P. 7 A postponed owing to deterioration of weather. (V.A. Dover, 0513A/6).

White Sea Approaches. Your 2212C/4. Request if practicable LEDA sweep channel daylight tomorrow and R/V with me off Gorodetski P.M. when further orders will be given. (M/S 1., 0937C/6 to S.B.N.O. Archangel)
Your 0937C/5. LEDA not yet cleared of ice. Hope sail her shortly. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1044C/6 to M/S 1).

Operation Q.O. Operation abandoned, weather unsuitable. E.T.A. 1320. (S.O. 13th M/S F., 1051A/6).
Owing to weather operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow. Next date on which tides are suitable is about 16/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1744A/6).

/Sweeps....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Sweeps in Dover Area. Sweeping carried out to 0800/6. By S.A. and L.L. Trawlers. Q.Z.S. 258, Q.Z.S.191 and in Q.Z.S. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and Dover. Negative results. Q.Z.S.238 from C one buoy and alternative route as in my 1931/5/10 by Oropesa and S.A. trawlers in progress. (V.A. Dover, 1249A/6).

LANCASTER. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1610/6).

Humber. The following eight mines were exploded on 5/12 by L.L. Trawlers. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1615A/6).
2 Red mines exploded today by L.L. Trawlers at 1249 and 1300 respectively. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1903A/6).

Thames Estuary. 2 S.A. mines and 1 magnetic mine detonated on 1/12 as follows. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1701/5.)

Navigational.

Dover W. Light Buoy. No. 1 Light Buoy Light extinguished. W. Buoy off station. Request Q.Z.H. (V.A. Dover, 0936A/6) 59 Q.Z.H. Dover Area. W. light buoy missing. (Hydrographer, 1430A/6).

Iceland. Request state of light and radio beacon North and East Coasts Iceland. (N.C.S.O. Archangel, 2200C/6).

Technical.

Flame Thrower Trials in PATRIE. It is desired to carry out preliminary firing trial of flame thrower installed in PATRIE at sea by day during normal operation of ship on 8/12. If satisfactory it is desired to arrange a trial with aircraft co-operation on December 10th for Admiralty staff departments and petroleum warfare department. For this trial PATRIE should sail not earlier than 1100. D.M.W.D. will advise A.V.C.O. direct regarding details of aircraft co-operation if C. in C. will allocate an area and time for trial. (D.M.W.D., 1239A/6 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/Oiling....

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical. - Contd.

Oiling at Sea. Your 2145A/16/11 and Admiralty 1210A/1. 600 feet British type flexible hose will be ready by 19/12. It is desirable that preliminary trials of this equipment should be made without delay prior to trials in Atlantic in DALE Class Oiler completing January/February 1942. BLUE RANGER is available on Clyde for this purpose which it is proposed should be carried out under your direction if you concur. (D. of Stores, 1606A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

ABEILLE 21. ABEILLE 21 ashore on Lismore. Require immediate assistance. (Port Patrick, 0641/6).
Tug ABEILLE 21 on passage Ayr to Scapa grounded on Lismore Island and has lost propellor. Vessel has been refloated and being towed to Oban. Reported not making water. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1115A/6).

MALLOW. Your are required to tow MALLOW from Londonderry to Belfast A.M. tomorrow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0914A/6 to CAROLINE MOLLER) C. in C. W.A. 2330A/5. Intend sailing MALLOW in tow of CAROLINE MOLLER from Lough Foyle at 2200A/6. Weather permitting. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1314A/6 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

LEVERNBANK. N.O.I.C. Stornoway's 0727A/6 and my telephone conversation. Request service of FREEBOOTER to assist M/V LEVERNBANK ashore S.W. of Ewe Island. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1003A/6 to F.O.I.C. G). LEVERNBANK ashore W. of Ewe Island. Ship heading S.S.E. listing 25 degrees to port in dangerous position. Request Salvage Officer immediately. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea., 1231A/6). Your 1003A/6. Approved. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1235A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea). Position very dangerous and weather extremely bad. Further report will be made when possible to board ship. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe, 1316A/6). Your 1231A/6. Representative of Liverpool and Glasgow Salvage Company has left for Loch Ewe. Salvage Tug RANGER will be sailed as soon as available. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1407A/6 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

/BURDENNA....

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BURDENNA IV (Water Boat). Grounded Aird Point during gale. Salvage will be attempted when weather moderates. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1011A/6).

EMPIRE BASCOBEL. (Tug). My 1233/3/12. Delayed with defects. Anticipate sailing about 9/12. (C. in C. Plymouth 1056/6).

LOOSESTRIFE. (Corvette) Cancel my 1032/5. Engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1124/6).

R.J. CULLEN. Position 058° 40' N., 024° W., (corrupt group?) 110° speed 6 knots, R.J. CULLEN in tow. Intend making Lough Foyle. (TENACITY, 1400/6).

VERITY. Asdic out of action oscillator shaft broken. Nothing can be done on board. Hove to in 059° 21' N., 009° 46' W. Not in contact with N.S.43. (VERITY, 1800A/6).
My 1800A/6. Suspect Dome may be missing. (VERITY, 1952A/6).

PROWESS. Tug KENIA left harbour 1140/6 to assist M.V. PROWESS. Entered harbour 1228/6 with PROWESS in tow. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1846A/6).

NAROCZ. S.S. NAROCZ anchored 5 cables East of 54 F. Buoy with defective steering gear. (MALLARD, 2045A/6).
Departure DIVERSION to assist NAROCZ. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 2245A/6).

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.14. Z.8. Will not now be included in W.S.14. (D. of S.T., 0922A/6).
NORMAN will not now sail with W.S.14 owing to defects. (D.O.D. H., 1630A/6).
On satisfactory completion of repairs request you will sail GURKHA for Milford Haven to arrive not later than 1200/9.
2. GURKHA will be required to sail from Milford Haven as extra escort for RAMILLIES breaking off with destroyers for Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.1710A/28/11.
(D.O.D. H., 1632A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth).

/Permission...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

W.S.14 Contd.

Permission is requested to include SILVERWALNUT speed 14¼ knots in convoy W.S.14 as ship will not be ready to sail in O.N.44. Destination Singapore with government stores and explosives. (N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1650A/4).

C.W.60.

My 1210A/4 and 1730A/4. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 1017A/6).

P.Q.5.

Your 1101C/6. LEDA reported at 1254C/6 that she is not yet clear of river and awaits Ice breaker. If possible LEDA is to R/V with me in Swept Channel a.m. tomorrow and escort P.Q.5. to Archangel then returning to Murmansk with SEAGULL arriving a.m./10. If R/V is not possible LEDA is to await arrival of P.Q.5. at Archangel. (1st M/S.F., 1340C/6 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

P.Q. Convoys.

Russian Naval Authorities have protested against frequent alteration in estimated arrival of convoys in (?North) Archangel. In case of P.Q.5 there have been 3 different times of arrival at point (?being) given which have varied as much as 36 hours. I consider that these complaints are justified. As whole work of moving our convoys in and out, shifting our ships from discharging to loading berths, and breaking in and out of Russian convoys carrying stores and ammunition to their Northern front at present devolves almost entirely on solitary ice breaker LENIN, such alteration involves entire dislocation of LENIN programme and severely disturbs the organisation of Port Archangel and Molotovsk which under present conditions is already very difficult. Request C.O.s. Escorts, and Commodores of convoys may be warned of necessity for adhering closely to programme as originally promulgated. Admiralty pass to all addresses.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1801C/6 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Submarine Routeing.	Request acknowledgment my 2153A/4 with particular reference to position L. (F.O.S. 1038A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)
URSULA.	U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity Alboran Island. (2) To avoid own night patrol do not cross 004° 40' W. before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA).
Fuel for Spanish Navy.	My 1100/28/11. Minister of Marine is pressing for reply. (N.A. Madrid, 1345/6 to Admty.)
Spanish Demonstration.	A fixed (as received, ? group omitted) was laid out by Spaniards position 309 (corrupt group) 4 at 1600 and about 8 rounds fired presumably as a demonstration. Wind N.E. 2 10 30. 42 80. (SCOTTISH 1800A/6? to F.O.C.N.A.)
ERICE sunk by REGENT.	REGENT arrived, reports sinking by gunfire Italian S.S. ERICE, 2350 tons, Northbound, in 037° 52' N. 011° 52' E. at 2025/1. (ii) Stay of at least 4 days required at Gibraltar to make good defects. F.O. (S) pass to Capt. (S) 5. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/6, 1910A/6 to Admty.)
Spanish and French Ships.	1631/5 Spanish minelayer MARTE escorting Spanish transport CASTILLO-FIGUERAS in position 265° Cape Spartel 60 miles, steering towards Cadiz. Gibraltar 6/12, 0900, French survey vessel ESTAFETTE French armed trawler W.43 French ships FORT-DE-DOUAMONT, STRASBOURGEOIS, MAROC, all laden, THISBE deck cargo field kitchens, French trawler MONTCASSEL, AUGUSTE-DENIS Westbound. 1445, French armed trawler W.67 French ships TROPIQUE, THESEE, MONTAIGNA, PORT-DE-BOUC all full, Eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1927A/6 to Admty. etc.)
OLYMPUS.	Am crossing 005° 00' E. Request permission to pass 000° 00' at 0700/8 and arrive 0900/10. (OLYMPUS, 2235A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

A/S Operations F.O.C.N.A. 2314A/6. See U-boat Campaign.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ALCANTARA. Your 1807N/4. If stores for ALCANTARA are at Trinidad request permission to call there on passage to Newport News. N.O.I.C. Trinidad please advise accordingly. (ALCANTARA 0015Z/6 to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad) Approved (C. in C. S.A., 1240Z/7).

F.J. WOLFE distress. Request information whether distress message 1058/5 (N.T. in W.R.) from F.J. WOLFE intercepted by St. Lucia radio has been correctly cancelled in code. (C. in C. S.A., 1142N/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Use of R/T. I am concerned at the extent to which Western Approaches escort vessels use R/T when on the South Atlantic Station. Grateful if you would instruct your escort vessels that the normal rules of W/T silence are fully applicable to R/T when on S.A. Station. Such orders are already in force for my escorts vide SACI.
F.O.C.N.A. 1656/2/10≠ refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 1146N/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
≠ 1556/2/11?

Suspicious tanker. On 3/12 pilot South Africa Airways sighted 2 masted grey ship with funnel aft apparently tanker anchored within a mile offshore from Santrosa near Porto Alexandria, nationality unknown. Identify if met. (C. in C. S.A. 1158N/6 to ROYAL SOVEREIGN).

ECHODALE. Cancel instructions to proceed Freetown. Proceed direct to Point Noire. On arrival discharge to BULLMOUTH as much of your remaining cargo of fuel oil as that ship can take then proceed to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1216N/6 to ECHODALE).

DEVONSHIRE. Leave patrol and return to Freetown when fuel remaining is down to 30% and report when you do so. (C. in C. S.A., 1225N/6 to DEVONSHIRE).

CANTON. Proceed when ready to patrol H.34 C. Object interception of possible enemy supply ships Southbound. (C. in C. S.A. 1241N/6 to CANTON) Cancelled, see 2013/7.

Security measures. F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1307B/6. See Lion Copy.....

/Withdrawal...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Withdrawal of DORSETSHIRE. BIRMINGHAM.

Thanks for 1659A/3. I quite understand the position. (2) Whilst my cruiser force is reduced I propose using BIRMINGHAM for patrol calm area South of St. Helena provided Admty. considers her absence from Plate trade route can be accepted in present circumstances. My 1059N/5 and A.M. 2331A/5 refer. (C. in C. S.A. 1247N/6 to Admty.)

Patrol of Calm Area.

My 1059/5. So long as U-boats are operating south of 020° S. I want to keep a patrol in calm area south of St. Helena. Now that DORSETSHIRE has temporarily left the station I shall have to use BIRMINGHAM for time being as I do not consider armed merchant cruisers sufficient. I realise your station work will suffer to some extent but I am afraid it cannot be helped. If you can arrange for your armed merchant cruisers to fuel without use of oiler ARNDALE suggest you keep her for fuelling BIRMINGHAM but further west than position given in your 0408/29/11. (C. in C. S.A. 1441N/6 to R.A.S.A.D.)

U/B Report 4/12.

Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information. (N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1501Z/6 to S.O.I. Montevideo). See U-boat Campaign.

Boats from sunk Raider.

My 2145N/2. There might be as many as 4 U-boats in the vicinity of boats. (C. in C. S.A., 1533N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

Movements.

My 1648/5 which is being passed to HECTOR (A.M.C.). Para. 2 for CARTHAGE read HECTOR (A.M.C.). (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1623Z/6).

ASTER. MARGUERITE.

If (?nothing) seen in vicinity of position F steer due E. spreading by day ships ten miles apart to longitude of 005° E. thence to Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A., 2311N/6 to ASTER, MARGUERITE).

German ship.

My 1112/29/11. (Report of sailing of German ship from Diego Samez). Ship stated to carry mica and probably graphite and to be armed. Graded A.3. (S.O.I. Capetown 2323/6 to Admty. etc.).

/CARNARVON.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. — Departure 1040/6. CARNARVON CASTLE. (S.O.I. Freetown 2345N/6 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

CANTON. — Departure 6/12 CANTON on patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown 2355N/6 to Admty. R.A.S.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

CHAKDINA survivors. — My 2236. THORGRIM left area for Alexandria at 2315/5 with about 60 survivors. FARNDALE leaves area 0030/6 with 141 survivors, none seriously wounded, to rejoin ERIDGE and KIRKRIB (?KIRKLAND). (FARNDALE, 0010B/6 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

German Shipping. — Departure 5th German SULLBERG - Gandia in ballast. Expected sailing 6th Marseilles with oranges ATLAS. Expected sailing 6th OTTO LEONHARDT for Genoa, with pyrites, turpentine and oranges. (Valencia, T.H.I. 0530/6).

Enemy Units. — Following is a repetition of my 0745B/6 addressed C. in C. Med. A.S.V. Wellington reports one destroyer and one 4,000 ton ship (type unidentified) in 39.21 N. 19.38 E. course 140° 15 knots at 0410B/6 (Ends). (V.A. Malta, 0831B/6 to C. in C. Med., rep. C.S.7, S/M's on Patrol, KANDAHAR).

P.31, attack on cruiser. — S.10 1306B/5. There is strong evidence to support claim of one cruiser sunk. Suggest following signal be made to P.31. "Their Lordships congratulate you on your important success". (F.O.S. 1036A/6 to Admty.)

Enemy A/C. — Following has been read. 1 enemy aircraft shadowing convoy "Screw" in 31.44 N. 26.29 E. (A/C using call-sign ACU 1040/6 to Alexandria W/T).

/Libya.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya ships sheltering in Vichy convoys.	17951 I/34449 5/12. (1) Southbound convoy 6 ships previously sighted N.E. of Kerkena course 170 again sighted 1340/2 East of Kerkena course 220. Escort believed French destroyer and escort vessel. Ships now estimated as 3 freighters 4000 tons. 1 at 2000 and 2 Tankers at 5000. Malta considers convoy probably French. Sfax must be approached from South because channel between Sfax and Kerkena too shallow for approach from north for laden ships this size. (2) Combined bulk storage capacity Sfax and Gabes believed only 5000 tons oil fuel at most. Capacity these two tankers approximately 13000 tons. Neither town has export able to fill two such tankers. Insufficient French Naval units at present in Sfax to justify arrival tankers. (3) Suggest possible axis tankers (or ships) sheltering in French convoys whilst en route Tripoli. Tankers could reach Tripoli at dusk 3/12. (C. in C. M.E. 1045/6 to W.O.)
U/B.	Attacked and claimed sunk by A/C. (1135/6, 1140/6, 1315/6, 1335/6). See U-boat Campaign for these and other U/B signals.
PROTECTOR, Aden.	N.O.I.C. Aden 0802/3. Request you reply. (C. in C. Med. 1136B/6 to Admty.)
Russian Oilers from Black Sea.	My 1217/5. Have seen Russian commercial N.A. He (?advocated) orders to discharge whole of cargoes of present three oilers at Istanbul. (2) Admty. repeat to Adm. Miles. (Adm. Kelly, Istanbul 1243B/6 to C. in C. Med.)
Hungary, Roumania, Finland.	A state of war will exist with Hungary, Roumania, and Finland from 0101 B.S.T./7/12. (Malta W/T 1336A/6 to UPRIGHT).
NEREUS.	Greek S/M NEREUS leaves vicinity of Alexandria at 1700B/6 and proceeds through 33° 12' 29° 00', 34° 43' 26° 10' and thence direct to within 20 miles of 25° 22' 34° 58' where she should arrive during the night of 9th/10th. (Capt. S.1., 1511B/6 to C. in C. Med.)

/Destroyers.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Destroyers.	C. in C. W.A. 1113A/5 and Admty. 2216A/3. Administrative arrangements for reinforcements. (D.O.D. (H), 1603A/6) See ~~Lion Copy.~~ Policy.
KINGSTON CYANITE.	Bombed by 2 aircraft. (KINGSTON CYANITE, 1715/6, to Alexandria W/T).
THRASHER. TRIUMPH.	Leave patrol p.m./7 and return to Alexandria as follows: TRIUMPH through 036° 10' 021° 26', 034° 28' 023° 16', 033° 22' 027° 54', thence direct adjusting speed to pass 2nd position about 1900B/8 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/11. THRASHER through 038° 00' 018° 50', 035° 00' 021° 20', 034° 24' 025° 40' thence direct adjusting speed to pass 2nd position approx. 2300B/9 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/13. (Capt. S.1, 1715B/6 to THRASHER, TRIUMPH).
Enemy A/c.	1 Aircraft bearing 040° from me. My position 280° 15 miles from Ras el Tin (Alexandria). (DECOY 1717/6 to Alexandria).
Malta Raid.	Night 5/6. 1945 to 0448 hours, total approx. 20 bombers, probably Ju. 88's approx. 8 crossed coast. Bombs land, sea. 5 houses demolished 2 slight civilian casualties.
Naples bombed.	20 Wellingtons attacked arsenal Naples. Over target 1930 to 0042 hours. Hits arsenal causing large fire black smoke up to 5000 feet. 4000 lbs. and smaller H.E. on torpedo factory, fire started still burning when last aircraft left. 4000 lbs 150 yards off target increasing fires already burning. Other hits and explosions marshalling yards, I.M.A.M. Airframe works. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/6).
ESPIQUETTE. (French).	Departure 5th Marseilles. (Valencia T.H.I. 1750/6 to M. of W.T.).

Eastern Medn. S/M movements summary 60.

S/M's	Estimated Noon pos. 7/12.	Estimated Noon pos. 8/12
THUNDERBOLT.	032° 22' 027° 54'.	Due Alexandria a.m./8
TRUSTY.	034° 36' 025° 12'.	032° 56' 027° 24'.
TALISMAN.	036° 30' 020° 44'.	Off Argostoli.
THRASHER.	039° 30' 017° 30'.	037° 38' 019° 08'.
TRIUMPH.	Off Navarin	034° 50' 022° 52'.

(Capt. S.1, 1751B/6 to Med. Fleet).

/CHAKDINA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

CHAKDINA sunk 5/11.

CHAKDINA sunk by aircraft torpedoes at 2135/5 in 032° 11' N. 024° 30' E. when returning to Alexandria with about 300 British wounded and 100 prisoners of war. FARNDALE and THORGRIM have rescued about 200 survivors. (C. in C. Med., 1756B/6 to Admty.)

C.S.7. KANDAHAR. JAGUAR.

My 1528/6 (N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. Med. 1151/5 (N.T. in W.D. Further R/C blank. If nothing sighted be in dead area by daylight tomorrow and meet KANDAHAR and JAGUAR as convenient.
2. A.S.V. is not being sent to your area tonight.
3. Repeated R/C will be carried out tomorrow on assumption that target is 24 hours late.
4. If this is blank return to Malta.
(V.A. Malta 1802B/6 to C.S.7.)

Enemy Shipping Losses.

My 1723A/7/9 (to C. in C. Med. only).
Copies of reports of Enemy Shipping Losses Assessment Committee are being sent to you. Figures issued to Press will be based on these reports. To keep in line with this policy, it is requested that press communiques issued in Middle East immediately after any success should not contain details of tonnage sunk or damaged unless the facts are indisputable. Similar instructions being issued to A.O.C. Med.
(Hd. of M. 1809A/6 to C's in C. Med., E.F., E.I.)

Balloons.

Your A.112, 28/11 to Admty. Arrangements are now being made for despatch of necessary equipment for Aden Suez Balloon Shuttle service. Request you inform Naval authorities concerned.
(Air Min., 1830 G.M.T./6 to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

PORPOISE.

At 0001B/8 establish patrol in area Q within 30 miles Pylos Light Navarin. Remain East of 021° 45' until 0200B/8.
(Capt. S.1, 1917B/6 to PORPOISE).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E. 2018/6 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

UPRIGHT, UNIQUE, P.34.

Exceptional vigilance is necessary against U-boats majority southbound passage of Straits probably at night. (Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to S/M's named).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.12 Z.
EMERALD
COLOMBO.

M.A.3.

Your 2318/5. (1) Escort can be provided from Durban onward and EMERALD has been detailed with orders to arrive Durban a.m./13. COLOMBO will provide onward escort from vicinity of Mombasa. (11) My 1316/30/11 para.2 (b), DERWENTDALE is being escorted to Mombasa where she joins convoy M.A.3 leaving 8/12.
(C. in C. E.I., 0454Z/6 to Admty.)

Search of Laccadives, GLASGOW, LAWRENCE.

My 0826/5 (1) GLASGOW leaves Colombo 6/12 for Laccadive 8th and 9th, with LAWRENCE assisting on 8/12. (2) I do not consider our purpose would be best served by a warship showing itself ostensibly off Marmagoa but GLASGOW will be on patrol off Goa between 014° (?40') N. and 016° N. on 10/12 keeping outside 200 fathom line. (3) Opportunity is being taken to make use of this patrol to exercise Coastal Defence aircraft of India in co-operation with H.M. ships at sea. (4) GLASGOW return Colombo 12/12.
(C. in C. E.I., 1334Z/6 to Admty.)

IPSWICH.

Have you any news of American IPSWICH due Vizagapatam 29/11 from Suez?
(D.T.D. 1835A/6 to S.O.I. Colombo.)

China.

Japanese Convoys.

Aircraft R/C reports one convoy of 25 ships with escort of 6 cruisers, 10 destroyers in 8° 00' N. 106° 08' E. at 0316Z/6. Second convoy of 10 ships escorted by 2 cruisers and 10 destroyers in 7° 40' N. 106° 20' E. at 0530Z/6. Both convoys steering 270°. Small force of three vessels in 7° 51' N. 105° 00' E. at 0442Z/6 ?course 310°. This may indicate that all forces will make for Kohtron.
(C. in C. China, 0745Z/6 to C. in C. A.F., N.Z.N.B., Admty. etc.)
My 0745/6. No further information and aircraft not now in touch but search continuous.
(C. in C. China 1431Z/6 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, C.Z.M. Admty., etc.)

Japanese and French Shipping.

Following is Saigon's Vesca 174 in accordance with your 0342/2. Arrival 22/11 SYDNEY MARU; 25/11 ALBERT CARRAUT, TAI SEUN HONG. Departure 26/11 GOUVERNEUR GENERAL ALEXANDRE VARENNE, Macao; SI-KIANG, Manila.
(S.O.I. Singapore 0955Z/6 to Admty.)

/Movements ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Movements. Singapore arrival 6/12 ELECTRA, JUPITER, MANOORA departure (?) 6/12 DANAE for escort duties. O.16 and K.17 for patrol. Penang departure 6/12 DRAGON for escort duty.
(S.O.(I) Singapore 1003Z/6)

Vichy Shipping. Clearance of Vichy ships from British ports should be refused pending further instructions. Masters should be informed that they cannot be permitted to sail whilst the present tension with Japan continues. Decoux is to be informed of the circumstances. You have discretion to defer this action until the arrival of any more cargoes actually en route for Hong Kong or Singapore from Indo China.
(Head of M. Approved by 1st Lord, 1106A/6 to C. in C. China, Cdre Hong Kong.)

Japanese Air Bases. Following addressed C. in C., Far East, Adm. Layton and Adm. Phillips, repeated Cdre., Hong Kong, from Chiefs of Staff No. J.I.C.2. C.2 report American origin dated Hanoi 1/12 states two additional air bases have been completed on Island Phu Kok and two at Tani. A/A defences are being installed.
(War Cabinet Office, 1255A/6 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

Hong Kong Evacuation. Following policy being carried out as regards despatch of ships building, equipment, plant.
(a) Bangors. My 1536/3 refers (re equipment for Bangors to be carried in ULYSSES).
(b) Standard ships. EMPIRE DRAGON launches today, will load own machinery, boilers, equipment and leave in tow of ST. ?DOMINIC as soon as ready, about 6 days. (c) Plant and material from commercial dockyards earmarked for evacuation. All preparations being advanced as much as possible, loading of materials commencing shortly, plant being got ready. It is not intended to despatch unless orders are received for coasters to sail. Should situation improve shipbuilding work can then be resumed with little delay.
(d) R.N. Dockyard. Machinery and equipment for Fairmiles 300 tons degaussing cable, plant, stores etc. as for (c). (e) Necessary ships for (c) and (d) are alongside. (f) European and some Chinese personnel will be sent with (b) (c) and (d).
(Com. Hong Kong, 1513H I/6, to C. in C. China.)

Australian corvettes. As an expedient intend to complete armament to following scale from local stocks. MARYBOROUGH and BENDIGO one 2 pounder Mark VIII and two machine guns each. BURNIE and GOULBURN one Holman and four machine guns each. Machine guns include two supplied to each ship from Australia.
(R.A. Malaya 0732Z/6.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MACBETH. Following received from LIVERPOOL. S.S. MACBETH was sighted 1430 G.M.T./3 in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. Reported bound for Boston, had been lying derelict for 14 days and that Naval tug had left her to refuel. Unable to investigate further owing to reported presence of S/Ms in this area (Admty 1356/3.). Shipping intelligence summary issued by C. in C. A. and W.I., gave ship of this name as being ex Italian IDA ZO. (Ends) T.O.O.1127Z/5.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0304A/6 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. amended 1128A/6.)
C.C.N.F's 1819/5. Request you will sail tug ZWARTE ZEE with A/S escort to assistance of MACBETH.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 0723A/6 to C. in C. W.A.)
ZWARTE ZEE is to be fully provisioned and sailed for Moville, Lough Foyle, p.m./7 to await A/S escort to approx. 047° 48' N. 034° 25' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1347A/6 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)
Your 1819Z/5 and A.M.0723A/6. Request H.M. Tug PRUDENT may return to MACBETH as soon as possible with orders to tow her towards Clyde. Dutch Rescue Tug ZWARTE ZEE is being sailed from Campbeltown to assist in search for MACBETH and if possible take over tow from PRUDENT. Should be grateful if Opnav would pass this message to Comdr. Task Force No.4.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1458A/6 to C.C.N.F.)
Intend to sail ZWARTE ZEE for Greenock to complete with oil fuel at 1800A/6. E.T.A. 2200A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1625A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
Sailed ZWARTE ZEE in accordance with my 1625A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1805A/6 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

DUC D'AUMALE (French). Departure 5th for Martinique 7th.
(La Guayra, 0815/6 to M. of W.T., S.O.I. Kingston 1252R/6.)

IROQUOIS. Your 1843Z/5. IROQUOIS destination Aruba for cargo. Diversion broadcast evidently misread.
(D.T.D. 1018A/6 to C.C.N.F.)

STRATHMORE. Your 2242/4. Diversion to Halifax not desired.
(D.O.D.(F) 1019A/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

EXETER (American) Following from C.C.S.O. American EXETER sailed 0800/6. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1108Q/6 to Admty.)

/TURECAMO BOYS ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TURECAMO BOYS. N.C.S.O. St. John's N.F, reports American Tug TURECAMO BOYS (tug) sailed St. John's N.F. 15/11 bound for Greenland with CHEROKEE. Unreported since parting company with CHEROKEE in gale night of November 16th to 17th.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1519Z/6 to Admty.)

S.C.59. My 1916Z/5. S.C.59, Task Unit 4.1.14, add ST. CLAIR.
(C.C.N.F. 1529Z/6 to Admty. etc.)

ODVAR II (Finnish) C. in C. A. and W.I. 1259Q/2/12. Finnish ODVAR II approached Botwood Newfoundland 3/12 but did not enter. Ship is still at sea unreported.
(C.C.N.F. 1553/6 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

ODENWALD. Re capture of tanker ODENWALD. Detailed report giving track chart, disguise details of cargo names of crew has been received and is being forwarded. ODENWALD intended to R/V first at Orade 040° 19' N. 039° 09' W. at 2300/18/11 and secondly at Orfe 045° 29' N. 020° 42' W. at 2100/22/11. First R/V apparently urgent the time for R/V being described as Musszeit. After second R/V ship was to go to Bordeaux.
(B.A.D. Washington 1615R/6 to Admty.)
O.I.C. Comment. The German merchant vessel sunk by KENYA on 3/10 in 43° 26' N. 24° 30' W. had a U/B in company. It is possible the above R/Vs were for meeting U-Boats to provide escort into the Bay of Biscay. ODENWALD is not a tanker but had a valuable cargo of rubber.

T.C.16. A.M.1812A/3 and A.M. 1604A/6. Convoy T.C.16 should be sailed from Halifax N.S. on 15/12 to join U.S. convoy as directed by Opnav.
(D.O.D.(H) 1708A/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ALIAKMON NAMARIB. Have you any news of Greek ALIAKMON due Sydney C.B. 26/11 from O.N.35, and American NAMARIB due New York 27/11 from Trinidad?
(D.T.D. 1836A/6 to D.N.I. Ottawa) Reply 1827/7.

/DIDO ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

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(D.O.D.(H) 1708A/6 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ALIAKMON
NAMARIB. Have you any news of Greek ALIAKMON due Sydney C.B. 26/11 from O.N.35, and American NAMARIB due New York 27/11 from Trinidad?
(D.T.D. 1836A/6 to D.N.I. Ottawa) Reply 1827/7.

/DIDO ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

DIDO.

Your 1732A/10/10 and DIDO's 1415R/17/11. Provided working up practices are not interfered with by weather DIDO will be ready to leave Bermuda 12/12. Request confirmation that she should proceed direct to Gibraltar.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 18420/6 to Admty.)

CIRCASSIA.

Your 17120/5. CIRCASSIA sailed 1907Z/6, departure delayed due to dense fog.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1926Z/6 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

F.J. WOLFE.

Has F.J. WOLFE arrived, if so report if Q Q Q Q sent 1058A/5 was correctly cancelled in code.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 19320/6 to S.N.O. Curacao)
Reply: 1105/7.

Japanese Moves, Indo-China.

Following for 1st S.L. President has informed Ambassador that U.S. Authorities are publishing what information they have regarding threatening moves of Japanese Troops and ships off Indo-China in order to prepare public mind for possible developments. President asks whether we can do the same and after consultation with me Ambassador has authorised publication tonight in Washington of substance of C. in C. China 0745Z/6.
(B.A.D. 1951R/6 to Admty.)

Finnish Ships.

My 2013Z/5. Disposition Finnish ships.
PUERTO TARAFA CUBA 5th December for New York.
Correction my 2013Z/5. For CARCORBE read CARIBE.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1958Z/6)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

22422/5. By D/F at 2242Z/5. Position of Italian U-boat was 46° N., to 47° N., 14° W., to 15° W.
(D.D.I.C. 0021A/6 to C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C.)

2200 G.M.T/5. (Med.) From D/F bearings German submarine was (? at) or near Bardia at 2200 G.M.T./5.
(Capt. O.S., Alexandria, 0138B/6 to C. in C.Med.)

0105 G.M.T. (Med.) Following received from Aircraft. One S/M on surface in 033° 53' N., 023° 30' E., course 090° speed 12 knots at 0105 G.M.T.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0455B/6, to C. in C. Med.)

2130Z/5. A report of U-boat in 5° 50' S., 34° 28' W., course 180°, speed 5 knots, at 2130Z/5 has been received. Was any Brazilian Submarine in this position, or is any further information available.
(D.D.I.C. 1043A/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)
Following from B.A.D. Washington. (Begins.)
U.S. Destroyer CLEMSON reports Submarine sighted 060° 36 miles from 006° S., 035° West, course 180° 5 knots, time approx., 2130Z/4 (? 5)(Ends).
Could this have been Brazilian submarine?
(C. in C.S.A., 1055N/6, to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)
Your 1043/6. No Brazilian Submarine in North Brazil and no information.
(N.A., Rio de Janeiro 1501Z/6.)
U.S. Destroyer reports S/M sighted 060° 36 miles from position 006° S., 035° W., course 180° speed 5 knots at 2130Z/5. No Brazilian S/M known to be in this position.
(C. in C.S.A., 2335N/6, to S.A. Stn.)

Alboran. U-boats believed patrolling in vicinity of Alboran Island. (2) To avoid own night patrol do not (?cross) 004° 40' W., before 0730A/9 thence proceed on surface direct to Gibraltar. Bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/6 to URSULA.)

P.M./5. British Air-Ways Pilot reports unusually large oil patch 10 miles W. N. W., Burling Island P.M/5/12.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1200/6, to Admty.)

/Following .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

Following received. Addressed Gibraltar.
Am over enemy submarine in 36.19 08.50. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge when first sighted. Was on course 130°. Estimated speed 15.
(A/C call sign M.9.H.V. 1238/6.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1411A/6, 1412A/6.)

1310B/5. (Med.) 2 U-boats P.C. and S., 031° 56' 015° 39' 130° 12 at 1310B/5.
(P.34, 1700B/6, to Capt. S.10.)

1340B/6. (Med.) At 1340B/6 one S/M 246° Stamphani Island 75 miles, course south, 10 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 1745B/6, to Med. Fleet.)

Mediterranean. Exceptional vigilance is necessary against U-boats, majority Southbound, passage of Straits probably at night.
(Capt. S.10, 2121B/6 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE, P.34.

2200. FFF Course 135° speed 6 knots.
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn., 2200/6, to 200 Group.)
LLL One S/M 36° 40' N., 08° 58' W.
(A/C J. No. 202 Sqn; 2215/6 to 200 Group.)
TTT Enemy Submarine previously reported has dived.
(A/C 202 Sqn., 2220/6, to 200 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. (Mediterranean) Following has been read. Am over enemy submarine in position 28.33N., 25.08 E. Course and speed of submarine 334°, 8 knots.
(A/C call sign K7TY 1135/6.)

By A/C. (Mediter-ranean.) My 1130. (N.T. in W.D. 1135 intended?) have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimated one hit.
(A/C Call sign K7TO 1140/6 to 201 Group.)
(W.D. Note. C. in C. Med. 2137B/7 gives position as 32.32 N., 25.08 E.)
N.Z - Wreckage seen one bomb caused large explosion, anticipate total destruction.
(A/C, call sign K7TO 1315/6 to 201 Group.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. (Mediterranean.) (Contd.)	Suggest you inform 2 destroyers in position TK2Y 57° 40' 118 25 at 1110. (A/C Call sign K7TO, 1335/6 to 201 Group.)
By A/C. (Med.)	Position, course and speed of one enemy submarine 32.40N., 25.05 E., 315° - 7. Have attacked her with bombs dive and estimate no hits. (A/C K7T, 1510/6 to 201 Group.)
By A/C.	Am over enemy submarine in 36° 52' 09° 25'. (A/C Call Sign M9HB. 1545/6, to Gibraltar W/T.) Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge - when first sighted was on course 305°. (A/C Call Sign M9HB 1553/6, to Gibraltar W/T.) Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges and estimate no hits. (A/C M9HB 1555/6 to Gibraltar W/T.) My 1545, correct Lat. 3645 IND was stationary. (A/C Call Sign M9HB, 1642/6, to Gibraltar W/T.)
By U.S. DECATUR.	U.S.Destroyer DECATUR believes she made sound contact on S/M in 051° 54' N., 041° 53' W., at 0912 G.M.T./6. Attack delivered. Contact not regained, continuing search. (U.S.C.N.O., 1700Z/6, to C. in C.A.F.(U.S.) Admty., etc.)
By HELIOTROPE 26/10.	HELIOTROPE's report dated 2/11 of attack on U-Boat on 26/10. Request you will commence a Board of Inquiry into the failure of depth charge drill resulting in the probable escape of a U-boat. (C. in C.W.A., 1734A/6, to F.O.C.N.A.)
By VETCH.	VETCH attacking Submarine in approximate position 285 Tarifa 15. (STORK 2235A/6, 2332A/6 to F.O.C.N.A.) (Considered non-sub., see 7/12. Position 36-03N. 5.52 W. (D.S.824.)

/By A/C's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

6.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

By A/C's 5-6/12.

(1) A/S Operations 5/6 Dec.
At 1831A/5 Swordfish sighted periscope and oil track in position 264° Spartel 12' course 100°. Attacked with depth charges, large oil patch 300 yards across appeared subsequently.
(2) No sighting or contact during night of 5/6.
(3) At 1238A/6. Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.19N., 08.50 W., course 130° S/M dived and was attacked with four depth charges. No results seen.
(4) At 1545A/6 Catalina sighted S/M on surface in 36.45N., 09.25W., course 305° S/M dived and was attacked with depth charges. No results seen.
(5) Destroyer preceded by Catalina sweeps to Westward in vicinity of 36° N., to about 9° W.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2314A/6, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Great Britain declared war on Finland, Hungary and Rumania at 0101 B.S.T. today.

Hostilities commenced today between Japan and the British Commonwealth, U.S.A. and Netherlands.

At 2143A the Admiralty ordered the commencement at once of hostilities against Japan.

HOME COMMANDS.

It is believed that 5 Enemy Z-class Destroyers, some probably carrying Mines, together with one or two E-Boat Flotillas are now in northern Norwegian waters; and 8 Junker 88 aircraft were reported today in the White Sea approaches.

BERWICK arrived at Kirkwall from the North, ONSLOW arrived in Iceland, and OFFA at Scapa.

NORFOLK returned to Iceland at 1550 from the Denmark Strait Patrol where she found much ice.

C. in C. Nore has ordered that, from tomorrow, 2 Fleet Minesweepers are to meet the northbound Convoy at 51 Buoy and sweep ahead of it to 5 Buoy, where they are to await the southbound Convoy and sweep it similarly to 51 Buoy. When possible, also, one of the escorting Destroyers is to operate her S.A. gear.

Subsequent to O.N.45 the sailing of ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. Convoys is to be discontinued and these ships will be sailed from Loch Ewe in separate convoys, designated U.R., with trawler escorts, the cycle being 5 days. The return convoy from Iceland to U.K. will be designated R.U.

Enemy Air Operations.

An enemy R/C aircraft flew over Archangel and Dvina Estuary today. S.N.O. Archangel reports that A.A. fire was "pitiful" and the Russian aircraft could not go up as their oil was frozen. The safety of our merchant vessels under these conditions is seriously jeopardised.

/S.S. AELYBRYN ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Operations - contd.

S.S. AELYBRYN was attacked at 1300 today 20 miles West of Girdleness whilst driven eastward by gale, causing her to lose touch with Convoy E.N.16. The ship was undamaged and had one casualty.

A fire was started by incendiaries near Grimsby Docks at 1910 today, but the attack failed to develop and there are no reports of H.E.

Mining.

There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations based on northern Norwegian or Finnish ports against our ships in North Russia may shortly commence. The Admiralty have asked S.B.N.O. Murmansk what help the Russians are likely to give.

In Convoy F.N.71 the British GREENLAND, 1281 Tons, was mined and sunk off Cromer at 0025A today, and at 1217 the British WELSH PRINCE, 5000 Tons in the same convoy was mined off No.59 Buoy and, having submerged by the bows, will probably become a total loss.

One Red Mine was detonated today by Trawlers in the Bristol Channel, where the British SEVERN TRANSPORT, 119 Tons, struck a Mine outside the swept channel; and 9 magnetic Mines were exploded in the war channels off the Humber.

South Atlantic.

Merchant ships have been warned that survivors, probably armed, from the German raider sunk on 1/12 are believed to be in about 15 boats, probably accompanied by U-boats. If seen they are to be given a very wide berth and reported by W/T. There are D/F indications that 2 or more U-boats are proceeding northwards from the raider's position.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Naples was again bombed by Wellingtons last night and fires were started in the dock area, west of the railway station and the marshalling yards.
Naval Albacores last night dropped 250 lb. bombs including a proportion of delay fuses up to 36 hours in Bardia harbour, to interfere with its suspected use by enemy small shipping.
Malta was raided by about 18 enemy aircraft last night without damage.

FLAMINGO was hit by A/C in the engine room at 1200B today in 32.16 N., 24.21 E. after 2 attacks, and was taken in tow by YARRA, (she eventually reached Tobruk.)

TRUANT secured hits on an Italian merchant ship of the RAMB class entering Suda Bay at 0848 today.

Libya and Western Desert.

Convoy A.T.1 has been unloaded and sailed, and A.T.2 has arrived at Tobruk.

CHANTALA, armed boarding vessel, was mined in harbour at Tobruk at 1740 today and sank later.

The 2nd S.A. Division reported a large scale movement of enemy troops seawards from Halfaya Escarpment today, and it was thought they might be attempting an evacuation by sea tonight.

APHIS successfully bombarded a road 13 miles west of Tobruk for 2½ hours last night.

East Indies.

QUEEN MARY was ordered by the Admiralty at 2338A/7 to be detained at Trincomalee pending further instructions from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.

Japanese submarines are expected in the Indian Ocean.

/At ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - contd.

At 2140Z C. in C. E.I. ordered merchant ships in area 3 to seek refuge in port. (But see 8/12.)

China.

It is reported in the Press that Imperial Headquarters Tokyo announced p.m. today that Japan had entered into a state of war with Great Britain and the U.S.A. in the Western Pacific.

C. in C. E.F. — Adm. Phillips arrived back at Singapore at 0230Z/7. Admty. have asked for an early report on the agreement reached with C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

Japanese Convoys. — No further contact with the Japanese Convoys reported yesterday has been made. Visibility is reported as poor. One Catalina operating off S.W. Coast Cambodia has made no report and is now overdue. A Hudson which reported a cruiser and transport in 08° N., 102.30 E. at 1835/6 was fired at.

Instructions to shipping. — At 1822Z today merchant ships in area 4 were instructed to seek refuge in port; at 2042Z these instructions were extended to ships in area 3B.

PETEREL. — At 1151Z/7 C. in C. China informed S.O.I. Shanghai that Admty. had no objection to the discontinuance of the river gunboat PETEREL as W/T link, and asked him to arrange for her towage if possible to Hong Kong. According to Press reports, however, PETEREL was sunk by a Japanese battery on the south bank of Whangpo River early today.

/Shanghai ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Shanghai. Press messages state that after sinking PETEREL Japanese marines stormed into the International Settlement and seized control, setting up machine gun posts at all road crossings.

Landing at Kota Bharu. It was reported at 1746Z/7 that an attempted landing at Kota Bharu, 06° N., 102° 10' E., in the N.E. corner of Federated Malay States was being made from 3 or 5 ships. (See 8/12.)

Singapore Raided. Singapore Island was raided by 18 aircraft at 2030Z/7. There was no damage to ships or naval establishments. (See 8/12.)

At 2247Z C. in C. E.I. was ordered to send REVENGE to Colombo at best speed and EXETER was ordered at 2249Z to leave her convoy and proceed at best speed to Singapore.

Philippines. A U.S. submarine is claimed by the Japanese to have been sunk at Palawan today and a 15000 ton Transport in Manila Bay.

America and West Indies.

In consequence of the loss of 2 battleships and heavy casualties to aircraft at Hawaii by Japanese attack today the U.S.C.N.O. is considering transferring back from the Atlantic to the Pacific 3 battleships of MISSISSIPPI class, A/C carrier YORKTOWN, 9 destroyers and 36 patrol planes. The Pacific Fleet has now only 6 effective battleships, the U.S.C.N.O. considers that the proposed transfer of destroyers will only slightly if at all affect the strength of escorts with H.X. convoys, since 5 destroyers are now operating with the MISSISSIPPI class battleships and 4 are working with YORKTOWN.

/Survivors ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. contd.

Survivors from DUNEDIN.

From 67 survivors of DUNEDIN landed at Trinidad by American NISHMAHA, it appears that the cruiser was struck by 2 torpedoes at 1326 G.M.T./24/11 in 3° N., 26° W., and listed 35° within 5 minutes. The first torpedo wrecked the main W/T office, so that no distress signal was received.

WINDFLOWER.

Corvette WINDFLOWER was sunk after a collision in fog with S.S. ZYPENBERG at 1250Z today in 46.19 N., 49.30 (or 42) W. ZYPENBERG was damaged and NASTURTIUM was also damaged whilst in attendance on the wreck.

New Zealand.

U.S.A. at War with Japan.

Opnav reported at 1925 today that hostilities with Japan commenced with an air raid on Pearl Harbour at 1830Z. Considerable damage appears to have been caused and there are reported to be 3000 casualties, half of them fatal. It is stated that the old, modernised battleships OKLAHOMA capsized and TENNESSEE caught fire; one destroyer in dock was blown up and another set on fire. A minelayer also was set on fire. Airfields were attacked and damage was caused. Japanese submarines and aircraft were attacked and one submarine and at least 2 aircraft are reported to have been destroyed. U.S. Forces proceeded to sea with aircraft carriers.

U-Boat Campaign.

Catalina A/C attacked a U/B in 36.04 N., 07.33 W. with depth charges at 0140/7 and estimated one hit.

Fulmar A/C attacked with machine guns a U/B at 1240/7 in position 230° Spartel 25.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CONQUEROR. — CONQUEROR has been allocated to A.C.O.S. for duty in the Faeroes area.
On conclusion of special trials at Clyde she is to be sailed as requested by A.C.O.S.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1334A/7).

RODNEY. RENOWN. — Your 2301/5. Approved. (1st S.L. 1550A/7 to C. in C. H.F.)

Ships for service with H.F. — My 2335A/5. Ships allocated are to be stored and victualled to capacity. Particular regard should be paid to sea stock victualling as fresh meat and vegetable supplies are unlikely to be available.
2. C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for H.F. ships. (D. of P. 1737A/7).

Japan. — Commence hostilities against Japan at once. (1st Lord 2143A/7) (A Message, Home and Abroad, 888A).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian convoy. — Russian Convoy of 5 M/V's escorted by 2 Russian Minesweepers left Archangel 1600C today, speed of advance 8 knots. From Terskyslantorlov they will steer for Kanin Yields. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1706C/6 to SHEFFIELD, 1st M/S F.)

Russian help with Convoys. — There are indications that minelaying from surface craft and E-boat operations based on Northern Norwegian or Finnish ports may shortly commence. It is therefore under consideration to invite the Russian naval authorities to accept more responsibility for the safety of P.Q. and Q.P. convoys in the vicinity of the northern Russian ports.
Request you will signal your views on the assistance we might reasonably hope to obtain from the Russian naval forces based on the Kola Inlet and the White Sea. (A.C.N.S. H. 1820A/7 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk).

/A/C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Co-operation with Russia-Contd.

A/C over Archangel. An enemy R/C aircraft flew over Archangel and Dvina Estuary today and presumably took photographs of loading and discharging berths, M/V's, and LENIN. A.A. fire was pitiful and (? no) Russian fighter aircraft in support of ground owing, it is stated, to oil being frozen. 8 German bombers were also reported in the neighbourhood of Gorodetski about 50 miles distant from P.Q.5. Safety of our merchant vessels both in port and at sea is under these conditions seriously jeopardized and you may consider it a fitting moment to represent to Russians your concern that no interception or counter-attack was operative. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. North Russia. (S.N.O. Archangel 2200C/7 to Ad. Miles).

Movements.

GOSSAMER. GOSSAMER hove to in 066° 15' N. 004° 12' W. in Northerly gale and low visibility since 0130A/7. Russian merchant ship apparently continuing on course 183°. Whereabouts of HUSSAR not known. (GOSSAMER 0850A/7).

P.41. Intend to sail P.41 for Clyde 1500A/9. E.T.A. 1100A/10. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1033A/7).

HUSSAR. GOSSAMER's 0850A/7. Approx. position 065° 26' N. 003° 40' W. No ships in sight. Oil fuel remaining 40%. Course and speed 180°, 10 knots. (HUSSAR 1130A/7).
Have had to heave to under hand steering twice to free jammed steering engine. Intend remaining hove to in approx. 064° 24' N. 003° 45' W. until weather moderates and more accurate position obtained. Last fix 1100/5. Request if possible D/F bearing from a ship in harbour. Weather unchanged starless. Keeping stability by flooding tanks. (HUSSAR 1815A/7).

CONQUEROR. Sheerness arrival CONQUEROR at 1205. (C. in C. Nore 1230A/7).

ONSLOW.. Arrived 0845. (A.C.I.C. 1311N/7).

/SHEFFIELD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

SHEFFIELD. HAZARD. HEBE. — E.T.A. 10300/8 HAZARD and HEBE in company. Your 21140/30. Intend to pass M.Z. at 06000/8 on course 280° speed 10 knots. Request Group X.2200 to 2400, and Group Y and R 0400 to 0900. (SHEFFIELD 13320/7 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

BERWICK. — Kirkwall arrival. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1354A/7).

P.38. — S.5's 1407A/6. Sailed. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1616A/7).
1. My 1408A/6 and 1153A/7.
Intend to sail WALKER from Needles 0930/8 for Barrow routed Q.Z.S. 293 and 180° Start and Lizard 5' and thence by standard routes. Speed 20 knots weather permitting till dark then 18 knots. E.T.A. 1230/9. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1743A/7).

NORMAN. — A.M. 1119A/7. Intend sailing NORMAN for Southampton passing Clyde Boom 0930A/8, routed by Irish Sea standard route as modified by C. in C. W.A. 1257A/2/10 thence by Q.Z.S. 292 180° Lizard 6 miles, 180° Start Point 9 miles Q.Z.S. 293 and 284. E.T.A. Needles 1200A/9. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1756A/7).

OFFA. — Scapa arrival 1053 OFFA. (A.C.O.S. 1802/7).

KENT. — Your 1116A/7th. Intend following route. Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. 11000/12. Approaching position M.Z. on course 238° 18 knots. Request following lights and D/F beacons. Request any information concerning shipping or (? Units) likely to be encountered. (KENT 2001A/7 to C. in C. H.F. Passed to SHEFFIELD, M.S.1.)

Operations.

Iceland-Faroes Patrol. (CUMBERLAND.) — My 1023A/6. Para. D. Postpone until further orders. (C. in C. H.F. 1006A/7).

/Operation....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Operation "Anklet".

Your 0019/6. Ships provisionally selected for operation "Anklet".
ARETHUSA, SOMALI, TARTAR, MATABELE, ASHANTI, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, KRAKOWIAK, KUJAWIAK.
(C. in C. H.F. 1228A/7).
A.M. 1603A/26 and A.M. 2335A/5 and C. in C. Plymouth's 1340/27.
PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS JOSEPHINE CHARLOTTE speed 22 knots carrying military personnel are required to leave Clyde to arrive Scapa A.M. 17/12.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail KRAKOWIAK and KUJAWIAK to arrive Clyde 15/12 to provide escort.
3. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ships as necessary to comply with para. 1.
(D.O.D. H. 1307A/7).
A.M. 1603A/26 andA.M. 2335A/5, and C. in C. Portsmouth 1027A/29.
GUDRUN MAERSK carrying stores and ammunition will be ready to leave Liverpool for Scapa p.m. 14/12. Speed 13½ knots.
C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail PUCKERIDGE to Liverpool to provide escort as required by C. in C. W.A.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail ships as necessary to arrive Scapa a.m. 17/12.
(D.O.D. H. 1336A/7).
(a) TIGRIS detailed for operation "Anklet" orders for which will be issued at Scapa by R.A. (D) H.F.
(b) TIGRIS is to leave Holy Loch 10/12 for Scapa and on arrival there will come under the orders of R.A. (D) H.F.
(c) TIGRIS to be prepared to be absent U.K. from date of leaving Scapa about 15/12 till about 26/1 by which date she must arrive Newcastle for refit.
(d) No base facilities after leaving U.K. except fuel. If more torpedoes required TIGRIS will be ordered to return to Dundee for them.
(F.O.S. 2222A/7 to Capt. S.3.)

Exercise L.4.

Your 1750/6. Concur providing that landing craft allocations for current operations, as arranged by V.A.C.T.C., are not interfered with.
2. Above is however subject to the same ships not being required for an operational exercise starting on 12/12. Final decision cannot be given until 9/12. (E.P.S. 1300A/7 to C.Q.2.)

/Denmark.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Denmark Straits Patrol.

On 6/12 there was a 40 mile clear passage off minefield but at 0130Z/7 NORFOLK ran into heavy loose ice just forming in calm weather in position 067° 22' N. 024° 50' W. and had to return to North Eastward. Any gale likely to clear passage again. On 4/12 edge of thick ice was North of 067° 37' N. 028° W. NORFOLK has patrolled short beat in or near gap. (C.S.1. 1452Z/7 to SUFFOLK).

Unknown operation.

My 2221/5 and 1244/7. REVIEW returned to harbour owing to sea conditions. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1536/7 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

C.S. One in NORFOLK arrived 1550. (A.C.I.C. 1653N/7).

Combined Exercise.

Following from Adviser on Combined Operations. Begins PRINCE LEOPOLD 1412A/6. Suggest this request be granted. (Ends). (Adviser on Combined Ops. 1547A/7 to V.A. C.T.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

White Sea.

8 JU. 88 reported in the vicinity of Gorodetski. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1300C/7 to SHEFFIELD, BRAMBLE).

A/C over Archangel.

Enemy R/C plane over Archangel 1300C today. (?Russian) A.A. fire poor. No Russian fighters went up owing to (?frozen) oil. 8 Junkers 88 reported vicinity of Gorodetski 1300C today. Admiralty pass to S.N.O. North (? Russia). (S.N.O. Archangel 1836C/7 to Adty.)

Mining.

Convoy F.N. 71. GREENLAND (British, 1281 Tons) sunk.

GREENLAND sank after floating for 4 hours in position 053° 13' 54" N. 2° 6' E. Proceeding Yarmouth with 13 survivors. Am informed 4 men adrift in ship's life boat but cannot find them. They may have been picked up by convoy. (LADY PHILOMENA 0025A/7).
Tug DIVERSION landed thirteen survivors from GREENLAND. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth 0745/7).

/Ship's.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Convoy F.N. 71. GREENLAND (British, 1281 Tons) sunk. - Contd.	Ship's boat with 4 men reported in 052° 16' 30" N. 002° 09'30" E. Detach escort vessel to pick them up. LYSANDER is at position. (C. in C. Nore 0905A/7 to WALLACE). GREENLAND with F.N. 71 was damaged presumably by mine near 54C buoy at about 1830/6 and sank later. (C. in C. Nore 1025A/7). My 1025A. Four survivors picked up from ships boat by KITTIWAKE proceeding Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1429A/7).
Convoy F.N. 71. WELSH PRINCE (British, 5000 Tons) damaged.	WELSH PRINCE mined 5 cables 110° from 59 Buoy. Have survivors on board. Ship has both anchors down remaining afloat. Request tugs immediately. Am standing by. (MALLARD 1217A/7). Departure Tug SABINE at 1455 to assist WELSH PRINCE. (F.O. Humber 1535A/7). Your 1450A/7. Remain with WELSH PRINCE. Salvage officer will be sent in 2nd tug. (C. in C. Nore 1557A/7 to MALLARD). WELSH PRINCE in F.N. 71 mined 5 cables 110° from 59 buoy, now has fore part aground in 53° 23' 40" N. 00° 58' 55" E. Ship probably total loss. Entire crew of 49 on board MALLARD will be landed at Humber. Six of crew have minor injuries. (C. in C. Nore 2239A/7).
SEVERN TRANSPORT (British, 119 Tons.)	1. Mined in about 51° 27' N. 3° 4' W. Ship out of swept channel. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1701A/7).
Bristol Channel.	Exploded red double L at 1550A/7 080° distant 1.1 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1732A/7).
Humber.	Following nine magnetic mines detonated to-day by L.L. Trawlers. Details. (F.O. Humber 2147A/7).
East Coast Channel.	Commencing tomorrow and continuing daily till further orders two fleet minesweepers are to meet the Northbound convoy at 51 Buoy and sweep S.A. ahead of it to 5 buoy, where they are to await the arrival of the Southbound convoy and similarly sweep it to 51 buoy. On days when there is no northbound or no southbound convoy appropriate arrangements are to be made to sweep that convoy which is running. (2) Sweepers are to be in line abreast two cables apart and at least 3 cables ahead of leading ships of convoy and at least 1 mile astern of destroyer in position "V" (N.O.M.44). (3) Destroyer in position "V" should operate S.A. gear when practicable. (C. in C. Nore 2310A/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Force in North Norwegian waters.

Please pass following in S.P. 02352 (26) Begins:- Addressed SHEFFIELD, S.O. 1st M/S Flotilla from C. in C. H.F. Intelligence indicates that there is now a total of 5Z class destroyers, some probably carrying mines, together with one or 2 E boat flotillas in north Norwegian area. T.O.O. 1859A/7. Ends. (C. in C. H.F. 1902A/7 to Adty.)

Technical.

Signals compromised.

Key Memoranda S.P's 02292K, 02293K, 02295K, are probably compromised up to midnight/9. (D.S.D. 1246/7).

Casualties and Defects.

LEVERNBANK (Grounded 6/12)

My 1316A/6. Ship refloated. (N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe 0022A/7)
LEVERNBANK anchored 2 cables east of Fisher Point Buoy. Tug ROMSEY unable to shift her until weather moderates. List considerably reduced by flooding starboard deep tank. Anticipate she should remain safe until arrival of RANGER. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1431A/7).
My 1555A/7. RANGER cannot arrive Loch Ewe before 11/12.
FREEBOOTER is to return to Loch Ewe as soon as propellor has been cleared to stand by LEVERNBANK until arrival of RANGER. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1717A/7).

Convoy O.N.C.43. Ship on fire.

Following received from Wick radio begins:- Intercepted at 2311 G.M.T. from O.N.C. 43. S.O.S. NR 53 ship on fire. No. 4 hold ends. (Scapa W/T T.O.R. 0025/7).
Following received. 53 from 45. Rescue Ship proceeding your assistance at utmost speed (corrupt group). What is situation. (Wick Radio 0027/7).
S.O.S. - N.R. 53 - ship on fire No. 4 hold, bearing approx. 352° from Malin Head. (C. in C. W.A. 0121/7 to BROKE).

BURDENNA IV. (Grounded 6/12.

My 1011A/6. Refloated and holed in number 2 hold. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 0917A/7).

NORMAN.

Request you sail NORMAN as soon as possible for Southampton to be taken in hand for boiler defects. (D.O.D. H. 1119A/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

/WALKER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

WALKER. My 1107A/2 and 1408A/6. WALKER delayed by minor engine defects. Intend to sail 8/12 for Barrow and onward orders for Londonderry.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1153A/7).

WHITEHALL. WHITEHALL has condenser trouble and is proceeding on starboard engine only. My P.C.S. at 1345A/7, 047° N. 014° 20' W., 187°, 13 knots.
(WHITEHALL 1402A/7).

SABOR. SABOR steering gear broken down near Sunk Light Float. Request tug immediately. TURQUOISE standing by. (VERDUN 1744A/7).
Departure Tug KENIA to assist SABOR.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1840A/7).
Arrival tug KENIA. Assistance not required.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2041A/7).

SAUTERNES (British, 1049 Tons). My 1610/7. Latest report appears to indicate that SAUTERNES was seen sinking at 1530/7 near Svino and raft seen drifting into Fugle Fiord.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1810/7 to M.S.4).

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14. Your 1650/4. As a special case SILVER WALNUT may be included in W.S.14. (1st S.L. 1114A/7 to N.C.S.O. Mersey)
A.M. 0108A/26. SILVER WALNUT carrying Government stores and explosives to Singapore, speed 14½ knots, will sail with Liverpool section of W.S.14. (A.C.N.S. F. 1616A/7)

P.Q.6. Sailing of P.Q. convoy would be expedited if arrival of SKYRACK, FRESHET, and P.L.M.14 could be hastened. (A.C.I.C. 1151N/7).

Convoys UR and RU. Subsequent to O.N.45 the sailing of ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. convoys is to be discontinued. These ships are to be sailed from Loch Ewe in separate convoys with trawler escorts as arranged by C. in C. W.A.
2. Convoys from U.K. to Iceland will be designated UR, those from Iceland to U.K., R.U. Cycle will be every 5 days commencing with UR one on 13/12.
3. RU convoys are to be sailed from Iceland 48 hours after arrival of UR convoy.
(A.C.N.S. T. 2032A/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

P.35. My 1545A/5. Intend to transfer control of P.35 as follows:operational to F.O.C.N.A. - 2359A/14 administrative to Capt. (S) 10 - 7/12. (Capt. S.9., 0745Z/7 to F.O.C.N.A.Capt. S.10).

OLYMPUS. Your 2235A/6 approved except do not cross 004°40" W., before 0800/10 thence proceed on surface. Shift to Gibraltar broadcast and M.S . routine. (F.O.C.N.A., 0908A/7 to OLYMPUS).

French Shipping. Passings 6/12. French Westward FORT DE DOUAUMONT, STRASBOURGEOIS, MAROC, THISBE, all full MONT CASSEL, AUGUSTE DENISE. Eastward TROPIQUE, THESEE, MONTAIGNE, PORT DE BOUC all full. (V.A.C.N.A., 0919A/7 to Admty for M.E.W.) French convoy of 4 ships and one armed trawler passed Gibraltar eastbound 1500/6. (F.O.C.N.A., 0936A/7 to CLYDE).

O.21. Your 2153A/4 understood and passed to Netherlands Sub. O.21 who has been routed through L, 043° 00' N., 013° 00' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1038A/7 to F.O.S.)

AUDACITY. Your 1228A/6 para. (iii). In view of AUDACITY 1930A/6 request information whether operational capabilities of AUDACITY are now impaired or whether ship can operate till spares are fitted in U.K. C.S. Gibraltar 2120A/5 not received by C. in C. W.A.
(C. in C. W.A., 1057A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1228A/6 and your 1658A/(?6). In view of present situation as regards U-boats and increase in shore based aircraft considered it better for AUDACITY to remain at Gibraltar. Air support to Convoy being supplied by shore-based aircraft. (F.O.C.N.A., 1602A/7 to Admty).

HARVESTER, HESPERUS. My 1024/7 (N.T. in W.D.) HARVESTER, HESPERUS sailed. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/7 to Admty, C. in C. W.A. Escort of O.G.77).

/FORTUNE...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

FORTUNE. Admty 2216/3 para. (a) FORTUNE, has engine defects which will be completed by 9/12 and has carried out no practice of any sort since commissioned on 22/11. (ii) Propose if C. in C. Med., concurs that FORTUNE joins group 2 and in the meantime every endeavour will be made to work the ship up. (S.O. Force H., 1146A/7 to Admty, C. in C. Med). Replies, 1510/8 from Admty 1241/8 from C. in C. Med.

JAY. Situation report No. 2. JAY expected to sail from Fayal 7th through 20.00., 21.00.7. Situation 2004A/7. (F.O.C.N.A., 1418A/7 to N.A. Stn).

Destroyers. A.M.2216/3 and A.M.1457A/7. Group 1 destroyers referred to in A.M.2216A/3 should be sailed for Mediterranean not later than 11/12. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1704A/7 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med., etc).

Trials. Your 1234A/4 to D. of S.T. (N.T. in W.D.) Particulars of trials are included in decisions of Chiefs of Staff 313rd Meeting on Joint Planning paper No. 715 dated 2/9/1941, copy of which was taken to Gibraltar by Governor's Staff Officer. Request you will consult Governor. 2. F.O. Force H., was consulted in the compilation of this paper when he was in U.K. (D.O.D. (F), 1738A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. Your 1015Z/3. ROYAL SOVEREIGN reports she requires five days for boiler cleaning at Durban. (C. in C. S.A., 0213Z/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

EOLO (Spanish). S.O.(I) Montevideo 2026/3. Propose to divert EOLO if met to Freetown for examination unless considered politically undesirable. (C. in C. S.A., 0315Z/7 to Admty) Reply 1710/8.

MALINES. Capetown departure 1650 G.M.T./6 MALINES for Durban S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T./9. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0948Z/7 to Admty etc).

DORSETSHIRE...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

DORSETSHIRE. Simonstown arrived (0730?) G.M.T./7 DORSETSHIRE. Due to leak in port outer manoeuvring valve ship will be at 24 hours notice for steam from 1000 G.M.T./7 to 1000 G.M.T./10 and then at 8 hours notice until 1000 G.M.T./11.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0953Z/7 to Admty etc).

ASTURIAS. Arrived Montevideo 1330G.M.T./5. anticipated time of departure 1300 G.M.T./7.
Stores details. (ASTURIAS, 1135Z/7 to R.A.S.A.D., C. in C. S.A.)

BRILLIANT, DEVONSHIRE. Leave patrol and return to Freetown now. (C. in C. S.A., 1147Z/7 to Ships named).

W.S.12 X. A.T.1629A/2. W.S.12 X. is now due to arrive Capetown noon G.M.T./9.
(D.O.D. (F) 1206A/7 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

ALBATROSS. My 2011N/17/11. Request early information when and how spares for ALBATROSS Diesel Dynamo mentioned in your 0604/29/11 were despatched. As repairs to Steam Dynamo cannot be undertaken either at Gibraltar or Lagos Ship is practically immobilized and I do not consider she should undertake the long Sea passage to either Simonstown or U.K. with only one Dynamo in action (C. in C. S.A., 1207Z/7 to Admty).

ALCANTARA. Your 0015Z/6 approved. (C. in C. S.A., 1240Z/7 to ALCANTARA).

Survivors of German Raider. Survivors probably armed from a German ship sunk in 027° 53' S., 003° 55' W., on 1/12 are believed to be in about 15 boats. They are probably in company with one another and accompanied by U-boat or U-boats. If seen they are to be given very wide berth and reported as soon as possible by W/T. (C. in C. S.A., 1250/7 to G.B.M.S.6A. G.B.M.S.9).

ECHODALE. Cancel my 1216N/6. Proceed towards 005° S., 010° W. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. S.A., 1254Z/7 to ECHODALE).

/ANTWERP...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ANTWERP. My 1606Z/6. ANTWERP routed through (a) 029° 20' S., 033° 40' E., (b) 024° 10' 037° (c) 019°, 039° (d) 016°, 041° 30' (e) 011° 50', 042° 10' (f) 006°, 041° thence to Mombasa. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1532Z/7 to Admty).

HOXA. Sailed HOXA, S. of A. 9 knots, E.T.A. Mombasa A.M./16 routed as in my 1400Z/19/5. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1620Z/7 to Admty etc).

BIRMINGHAM's A/Cs. Both BIRMINGHAM's aircraft are unserviceable with hull beyond ship's repair. In view of great importance of air R/C and A/S patrol request Walrus aircraft (?replacement) on arrival Simonstown. If none available from shore suggest you might consider following possibility.
(1) Transfer of Walrus from DORSETSHIRE to BIRMINGHAM.
(2) Employment of ASTURIAS if she has a serviceable aircraft. She could arrive St. Helena area by about 13th.
(3) Should an opportunity occur, the employment of DEVONSHIRE in St. Helena area while BIRMINGHAM proceeds Freetown to embark a Walrus.
(4) Embarkation Swordfish which can be operated with limitation in BIRMINGHAM.
Request you order oiler ARNDALE to withdraw temporarily if desired.
My position 1700Z/7 028° 50' S., 002° 00' W., course 112° S. of A. 18 knots.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1743Z/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

U-boats and Supply Ships. There are D/F indications 2 or more U-boats are proceeding Northwards from position of raider (?sunk by) DORSETSHIRE on 1/12. These may well have survivors boat in tow and be making for R/V with another supply ship coming from North. S. of A. might be 120 miles a day.
(C. in C. S.A., 1745Z/7 to CANTON).

2
Vichy Officers. For 5 months negotiations have been going on for exchange of two Vichy Officers reported in my 1355/15/6/41 for Lts. Crabbe and Easton with no result. Propose to send these two Vichy Officers to U.K. by next opportunity.
(C. in C. S.A., 1843Z/7 to Admty).

CANTON. Cancel my 1241/6/12. Proceed to patrol area I 35 A on 10/12. (C. in C. S.A., 2013/7 to CANTON)

/CHESHIRE...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CHESHIRE. My 1230Z/26/9 and 1730Z/27/9 to C. in C. S.A. also my 1120Z/6/10 and 1305/6/10 to C.S.18. Re reduction of speed on passage. CHESHIRE has now dry docked. No external damage discovered. Coating tiny barnacles on propeller blade and ships bottom. Request information if available about speed ? experienced other A.M.C. after prolonged stay at Freetown. (CHESHIRE, 2045/7 to C. in C. S.A.) N.B. Signals quoted not received in War Registry.

Mediterranean.

Libya. Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 0036/7) See Lion Copy.

C.S.7. (i) Your force was sighted yesterday.
(ii) Wellington R/C Gulf of Taranto area night 6/7 blank.
(V.A. Malta, 0847B/7 to C.S.7).
Return by S.E. passage to Malta forthwith.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1047B/7 to F.O. 7 C.S.)

Movements. Arrival 6/12 JERVIS, HAVOCK, HERO, ERICA,. Departure 6/12 GRIFFIN, HOTSPUR, HOBART, GALATEA, CARLISLE, Gr. S/M NEREUS, DELPHINIUM, THORN, FALK, PROTEA. Arrival 7/12 IERAX, AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, ERIDGE, SOUTHERN WAVE, FARNDALE, THORGRIM. Departure 7/12 PRIMULA.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 1115B/7 to A.I.G.74).

A/C attack. Enemy A/C bombing. Bearing 174° 36° N., 19° E., course 200° speed 21 knots.
(C.S.7., 1135/7 to Malta W/T)
(?1) Enemy aircraft bombing. Bearing 284 F.19.
(Call 2 YJQ, 1150/7 to Alexandria).
Enemy A/C bombing, position 201 36° N., 19° E. 61 course 234, speed 27 knots.
(C.S., 7., 1330B/7 to Alexandria W/T).

/Enemy....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. Two M/Vs. one destroyer P.C. and S. 035° 08' N., 011° 28' E., course southwards, speed 10 knots. Proceed to intercept. (2) Blenheims attacking today (3) Wellingtons will co-operate. (V.A. Malta, 1145B/7 to F.O. 7 C.S.) Cancel my 1145B/7th. Return to Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1731B/7 to R.A. 7 C.S.)

Air R/C. Following received from 201 (Begins). 7th C.S. (at sea) Malta A. 137 7/12 Our aircraft searched to a line Sapienza to 205 Sapienza 150 starboard outer limit 1100 hours T.O.O.0929. (R.A. Alexandria, 1215B/7 to 7 C.S.)

M/Vs. bombed. Western Desert day 4/12. 6 Blenheims bombed small merchant vessel about 100 miles N.E. Derna, direct hits caused violent explosion, ship almost stopped and burning fiercely when Blenheims left. Schooner in vicinity also attacked no hits (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1221/7).

Black Sea. N.L.O. Black Sea reports Military situation Sevastopol satisfactory though town shelled continuously. Certain German Units replaced Bakmouamier by Roumanians.
2. Enemy digging in on Kerch Peninsula and fortifying coast. No apparent intention at present to cross Straits.
3. Black Sea Fleet inactive. No further damage.
4. Tuapse slowly becoming organised as a Base. (Adm. Miles, 1237D/7 to Admty).

U/Bs. attacked. Day 6/12. R/C Blenheims attacked submarine during early afternoon 40 miles N.E. of Mersa Lukk, possible hit also, further submarine about 4 hours later 50 miles N.E. of Mersa Lukk 1 near miss. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1319/7).

P.34. My 1301B/5. Withdraw to vicinity 036° 00' 016° 00' until 0001B/8. UNBEATEN sails 1800B/7 for Area F and will be clear of swept channel at midnight. (Capt. S.10., 1424B/7 to P.34).

Hospital Ship. Hospital ship 32.25 N., 25.10 E. (Aircraft No. 203 Sqn. Duty Z. 1425/7, 1500/7 to 201 Group).

/UNBEATEN....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNBEATEN. Sails at 1800B/7 for area F. (Capt. S.10, 1429B/7 to Capt. S.1). UNBEATEN enters area F 0700B/8 to operate in vicinity of 037° 50' 015° 44'. (Capt. S.?10 , 1435B/7 to UPRIGHT, UNIQUE)

KONDOURIOTIS. Intend following programme, to Calcutta. (C. in C. Med. 1525B/7).

Enemy Units. 2 M/Vs one cruiser 34.40 N., 11.10 (240) 10. (Med., A/C L., 1530/7 to Hal Far).

Conduct of Fleet. Admiralty 2308/4 Med., Memo referred to has not yet been received. (S.O. Force H., 1559A/7 to C. in C. Med). (W.R. Note. Remarks on conduct of Fleet at sea. Med., 1709/00239/1 of 23/9 refers).

S/Ms. Eastern Mediterranean submarine movements summary number 62.

Submarine	Est. noon position, 8/12.	Est. noon position 9/12.
TRUSTY	032° 58', 027° 24'.	Due Alex. A.M./9.
TRIUMPH	034° 50', 022° 52'.	033° 58', 025° 26'.
THRASHER	037° 38', 019° 09'.	035° 50', 020° 40'.
Gr. NEREUS	033° 48', 027° 56'.	034° 40', 026° 16'.

THUNDERBOLT is due Alexandria a.m./8. (Capt. S.1., 1601B/7 to Med., Fleet).

Communications with C.O.S. For Chiefs of Staff from Cs. in C. Your X.262 12/11 problem referred to us by M.E.W.C., agreed firstly that channel of communication between London and Cairo should be Air Ministry-A.O.C. in C. and secondly that inter-service committee should be set up to co-ordinate measures for concealment and deception against air attack in Middle East. This committee would report through the joint operational staff to Cs. in C. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1627/7 to Air Min).

YARRA bombed. Am being attacked by enemy aircraft, 14 aeroplanes, 32.16 N., 24.21 E. (YARRA, 1645/7 to Alexandria W/T).

FLAMINGO hit. FLAMINGO badly hit engine room, am standing by her. (YARRA, 1700B/7 to Alexandria).

/FALK....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

FALK bombed.

Following has been read Addressed Alexandria W/T. From FALK. Am being attacked by enemy aircraft. (? 1730/7).

Enemy A/C.

Am being shadowed by one enemy aircraft 31.24 N. 27.43 E. 103 7. (Med., A/C N., 1735/7 to Alexandira W/T).

Night 6/7, 10 Wellingtons 1 C successful attack Royal Arsenal Naples 1829 to 2355 hours. Fires dock area and west of Railway Station. Fires and many heavy white explosions target area and marshalling yards. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1809/7).

CHANTALA, Mined.

CHANTALA mined in harbour at 1740 WOLBOROUGH remaining. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 1817B/7 to N.O.I.C. Alexandria).

HEYTHROP, AVON VALE.

HEYTHROP and AVON VALE will sail about 2200 to reinforce YARRA, CHANTALA, WOLBOROUGH and are to transfer A.T.3 when convoys cross. (Alexandria, 1833A/7 to S.O. Force I etc).

THUNDERBOLT.

My 1751B/6. THUNDERBOLT position noon/7 should read 033° 22' 027° 54'. (Capt. S.1., 1915B/7 to HOBART, BRECONSHIRE).

Enemy Troops Halfaya ?evacuation.

(Corrupt group) 2nd S.A. Division reports large scale movement (?group omitted) enemy troops from Escarpment Halfaya towards sea today. (Corrupt group) consider possibility of their evacuating (?by sea) tonight. (N.L.O. Benghazi? 2028B/7 to C. in C. Med., S.O. Force I).

HEYTHROP, AVON VALE.

Cancel my 1833/7. (N.T. in W.D.) HEYTHROP and (?AVON VALE) now sail at 2300 to arrive Mersa Matruh 0600/8. To sail as ordered by S.O. Force I to join YARRA and WOLBOROUGH when sailed or as required. (Alexandria W/T, 2040B/7 to S.O. Force I).

/Situation....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report 173. BRECONSHIRE, KIMBERLEY and KINGSTON now on passage Malta to Alexandria escorted by HOBART, GALATEA, CARLISLE and 2 destroyers due A.M./8 KANDAHAR and JAGUAR patrolling off Derna night 6/7 now proceeding to Malta covered by force "B".
(2) Destroyers have patrolled nightly off Derna or Bardia but have not encountered enemy. Greek destroyers now operating from Mersa Matruh for Bardia patrol.
(3) Western Desert. Enemy air effort concentrated today 7th on our shipping. FLAMINGO hit in (?engine) room at 1700/7 in 032° (?16') N., 024° 21' E., (?after) 2 attacks by 5 and (?14) (?aircraft), being towed to (?Tobruk) by YARRA. (?5) attacks on transhipment shipping on (?Tobruk) route by torpedo/bombing aircraft and other aircraft but no further damage reported. CHAKDINA sunk as in my 1756/6. Convoy A.T.1 has been unloaded and sailed. A.T.2. has arrived Tobruk. CHANTALA mined in Tobruk harbour (?today) 7th.
(4) GLENROY has entered Alexandria harbour but not yet docked.
(5) Submarines. My 2130/30 para. 7 P.31 attacked was in 039° 20' N., 017° 33' E., at 1720/29. 3 hits scored considered to be on centre of 3 cruisers which probably sank, but no certain evidence.
(6) Aircraft. Albacores continue excellent work with R.A.F. forward Maltese squadrons in Western Desert. R.A.F. aircraft attacked and damaged U-boat at 1140/6 in 032° 32' N., 025° 08' E., and again attacked unsuccessfully at 1510/6 in 032° 40' N., 025° 05' E. (C. in C. Med., 2137B/7 to Admty).

Russia and Turkey. Appreciation. (30 M.M.2244/7 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER. Request permission to return to Adriatic for operation "Hydra" and if time permits "Henna". (?THRASHER, 2257B/7 to Capt. S.1).

TRIUMPH Intelligence. No enemy ship in or around Navarin during last six days. Flight of six unescorted transport or bomber aircraft fly over Navarin low about 1030B most days course N. or S. Weather report.
(TRIUMPH, 2320B/7 to Capt. S.1).

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Q Message 28/11.

Ref. Admty. 1925/2 (i) para. 6, Q distress message was made by BRITISH SOLDIER who was suspicious of CITY OF CAPETOWN message was cancelled in P/L and code, and ship arrived Aden 4th. CITY OF CAPETOWN confirms (ii) para 8. In view of the above is there any other corroborative evidence of a raider in Indian Ocean?
(C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/7 to Admty., C. in C. China, C. in C. S.A., N.B. Melbourne, Wellington)

B.D.V's.

Mombasa arrived 7/12 0414 G.M.T. B.D.V's JENNET, PUNNET, RENNET.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0729Z/7 to C. in C. Med.)

Diversion of Shipping.

The following message is passed to Admiralty for information: C. in C. E.I. to East Indies Station 347 C.
For N.C.S.O's. My 2006/1/3/41 893 C para. 1. (1) Delete position D. The limiting line is to run from C 004° 30' N. 073° 10' E. to E 006° 10' N. 095° 10' E. (2) stations informed.
(C. in C. E.I., 0732Z/7.)
My 0732/7th 347 (C) is being passed to you. Request adjacent stations will conform.
(C. in C. E.I., 0816Z/7 to Admty., F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N., N.O.I.C. Auckland, C. in C. China, F.O. Malaya, N.Z.N.B., N.O. Wellington, N.L.O. Durban, N.O.I.C. Rangoon, N.O.I.C. Penang, D.N.O. W. Australia (Fremantle) N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

EMERALD.

Mombasa arrived 7/12 1022 G.M.T. EMERALD.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1024Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping Warned.

My 2920/24/10. Following has been made to Merchant ships in Area 3 (begins): Seek refuge in port 2140Z/7. A A A (Ends.)
(C. in C. E.I., 2156Z/7 to E.I. Stn.)

QUEEN MARY.

To be held at Trincomalee pending further instructions from C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
(1st S.L., 2338A/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

War with Japan. Imperial Headquarters, Tokyo, announced p.m./7 that Japan had entered into a state of war with Great Britain and the United States in the Western Pacific. (Press)

German 508. Yokohama 2/12 German 508 repairs and temporary accommodation completed returned to anchorage ship lighted no armaments visible.
(C/S. Singapore, 0302Z/7.)

Adm. Phillips. Personal for 1st S.L.
Adm. Phillips arrived back at Singapore at 0230Z/7th.
(C. in C. E.F., 0421Z/7 to Admty.)

Restriction of shipping movements. My 0353/2. Para. (b) now applies smaller ships also. Para. (c) now includes Malaya and Borneo. Request adjacent stations will conform.
(C. in C. China, 0515Z/7 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B. etc.)

SILVERLARCH. Due Penang 3/12 from Capetown not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Singapore, 0551Z/7 to C. in C. China, S.O.(I) Colombo.)

Japanese Convoys. Further to C. in C. China's 0745/6. Escort of first named force consists of 1 battleship, 5 cruisers, 7 destroyers. From description and W/T traffic, battleship is almost certainly KONGO. 2 of cruisers are ZINTU class, probably ZINTU and NAKA, flagship of second and fourth destroyer squadrons.
Description of remaining cruisers corresponds to KAKO class but from W/T traffic second fleet cruisers considered more likely, possibly ATAGO, TYOKAI and MAYA. Convoy now reported as 22 10,000-ton M/Vs.
Second named force. No description of escort available. Convoy now reported as 21 M/Vs.
Third named force reported as 1 cruiser and 3 10,000 ton M/Vs. During last 24 hours majority of signals originated by C. in C. Combined Fleet, whereabouts unknown.
Result of aircraft R/C since first sighting negative.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0611Z/7 to C. in C. Asiatic Fleet, Admty., etc.)

/Sighting ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Sighting of enemy transports 6/12.

Following for C. in C. E.F.
A. Please keep us more fully and frequently informed, even if it is only to make no change.
B. Was delay in despatching your 0745Z/6 due to breakdown in W/T in aircraft?
C. What A/C R/C is now being carried out?
(1st S.L., 0950A/7 to C. in C. China.)
60. Your 0950/7 para. B. Time of sighting 1st (corrupt group) convoy was 0516Z not 0316Z. Aircraft W/T could not be received direct at Singapore. Some delay in communication occurred which should be reduced in future.
(C. in C. E.F., 1445Z/7 to Admty.)
Your 0950/7. Presuming you have received C. in C. China, 1431/6 and Captain on Staff 0611/7.
(ii) Aircraft R/C today Sunday over Gulf of Siam between 101° and 104° E. as far as 011° N. handicapped by poor visibility.
(iii) One Catalina operating off S.W. coast Cambodia has made no report and is now overdue.
(iv) Report from Hudsons:
(a) One merchant ship 010° N. 101° 30' E. course 270° at 1345.
(b) One armed Merchant ship 005° 40' N. 106° 30' E. course 045° at 1430.
(c) One cruiser one transport 008° N. 102° 30' E. course 340° at 1835, aircraft was fired at.
(d) 4 destroyers 008° 10' N. 101° 15' E. course 180° at 1848.
(v) No further contact with convoy previously sighted.
(vi) Above times zone minus 7½.
(vii) Further signal follows regarding "B" of your 0950Z/7.
(C. in C. E.F., 1405Z/7 to Admty.)
My 1405/7 para. 4 (d).
Interrogation of A/C crew indicates force probably 1 Cruiser 3 Transports.
Visibility very poor.
(C. in C. E.F., 1431Z/7 to Admty.)

PETEREL, MANTIS.

Admty. has now no objection to discontinuance of PETEREL as W/T link. Arrange if possible for her to proceed forthwith to Hong Kong in tow. Alternatively consider demobilising and laying her up as most convenient, crew proceeding Hong Kong in plain clothes if necessary. Report action being taken and confirm nothing useful can be done about MANTIS.
(C. in C. China, 1151Z/7 to S.O.I. Shanghai.)
PETEREL, lying off the Shanghai Bund, was sunk by a Japanese battery on the south bank of the Whangpo River early today, after a brief exchange of fire. Soon afterwards Japanese marines stormed into the International Settlement and set up machine-gun posts at all road crossings.
(B.U.P. Report, in Press, 8/12.)

/Air R/C ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Air R/C. My 0745/6.
Aircraft R/C today Sunday over Southern part Gulf of Siam handicapped by bad visibility. Contact not regained with large convoys, but scattered Japanese units sighted with no definite indication of their intentions. One of our aircraft was fired at.
(C. in C. China, 1421Z/7 to C. in C. A.F., C.Z.M., Admty., etc.)

Policy. Ref. C.O.S. Far East No.50 para. 2 (a). Our reading of instruction is that Naval and Air action against such expedition is not at present authorised. Request confirmation.
(C. in C. E.F. C. in C. F.E., 1423Z/7 to Admty. for C.O.S. Committee.)

Operation "Matador" abandoned. Ref. C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 1431/7 and Chief of Staff Far East's 50.
A. Have decided not to operate "Matador" for following reasons:-
1. Conditions for R/C were very bad and there can be no real certainty that ships seen were an expedition.
2. If expedition is in fact aimed at Singora Region it can reach there before we can arrive. "Matador" is designed only to forestall a connection expedition.
3. If conclusions drawn from R/C prove incorrect we should incur all disadvantages of first breaking Thai neutrality.
4. Switch movements are consistent with a deliberate attempt to induce us to violate Thai neutrality.
B. If Japanese do land in Southern Kra Isthmus, is it to be assumed we are at war with Japan.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet concurs.
(C. in C. F.E., 1605Z/7 to Admty. - passed to Troopers by W.R.)

Kota Bharu landing. Report from Kota Bharu an attempt is being made to land from 3 or 5 ships, one landing craft already approaching mouth of river.
Kota Bharu 006° N. 102° 10' E.
(C. in C. China, 1746Z/7 to Admty.)

/Manila ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Manila. Following is text of instruction sent to Commanding General U.S. Army Forces Manila. "Hostilities between Japan and U.S, British Commonwealth and Dutch have commenced. Carry out tasks assigned in "Rainbow 5" so far as they pertain to Japan. In addition co-operate with British and Dutch to the utmost without jeopardizing the accomplishment of your primary mission of defence of the Philippines. You are authorised to despatch air units to operate temporarily from suitable bases in co-operation with the British or Dutch. Report daily major dispositions and all operations. You have the complete confidence of the War Dept. and we assure you of every possible assistance and support withdn our power".
(Brit. Joint Staff Mission Washington, 1837/7 to W.O.)

Shipping Warned. Following has been passed to Merchant Ships in area 4. (Begins): Seek refuge Port. 1822Z/7. (Ends.)
(C. in C. China, 1844Z/7 to R.A. Malaya, Cdre. Hong Kong etc.)
Seek Refuge Port.
(D.T.D., 2042Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 3B & 4.)
All merchant ships are to proceed away from Japanese controlled waters to a British, Dutch or U.S. port. Ships are not to go to Hong Kong, Borneo, or Yellow Sea ports.
(D.T.D., 2100Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 3B, 4, 5, 8, 10 & 11.)
Ships in areas addressed are not to show navigation lights. In coastal waters dimmed navigation lights may be shown.
(D.T.D., 2340Z/7 to G.B.M.S. Areas 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 8, 10.)

Air Raid on Singapore. Air attack by 18 aircraft carried out in Singapore Island at 2030Z/7.
(C. in C. China, 2054Z/7 to Admty.)

REVENGE. REVENGE is to proceed to Colombo at best speed.
(C. in C. E.F., 2247Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

EXETER. EXETER is to leave her convoy and proceed Singapore at best speed reporting E.T.A.
(C. in C. E.F., 2249Z/7 to C. in C. E.I.)

/Situation ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 7.12.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Situation Report.

1. Enemy information as in C/S Singapore's 0611Z/7 to Admty.
2. First location Japanese convoys at over 300 miles from Malayan coast was very good piece of work by No. 1 Sqdn. R.A.A.F. (Hudson) Impracticable to hand over shadowing to relief aircraft since patrolling aircraft at limit of their range.
3. Attempt being made to use Beaufort for high photography. Weather in Gulf of Siam now on the whole bad for air R/C. One T/B squadron is now at Kota Bharu.
4. Malaya is at first degree of readiness and "Matador" force standing by. Some road blocks are reported in construction by the Thais on the road between Kedah frontier and Singora and on Kroh road near Betong.
(C. in C. F.E., 2300/7 to W.O.)

Agreement with U.S. Fleet.

Request early report on the agreement you have reached with C. in C. Asiatic Fleet.
(1st S.L., 2336A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)
Cancelled, see 0114A/8.

Japanese S/M's.

Japanese submarines are to be expected in the Indian Ocean.
(1st S.L., 2337A/7 to C. in C. E.F.)

Hong Kong Light.

Gaprock Light has been dismantled and crew withdrawn.
(Govr. Hong Kong, No T.O.O./7 to S. of S. for Colonies, Recd. in War Reg. at 2340/8.)

America and West Indies.

MIMOSA.

Your 1413Z/3. MIMOSA making passage independently, E.T.A. not known.
(A.C.I.C., 0217N/7 to C.C.N.F.)
E.T.A. at St. John's N.F. 1400Z/8.
(MIMOSA, 1442Z/7 to F.O. N.F.)

KOURA (Finnish)

U.S. Authorities Cuba state KOURA sailed for New York, on 23/11.
(S.O.I. Kingston, 0914R/7 to A.W.I. Stn., etc.)

/MOA ....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

MOA. H.M. N.Z.S. MOA entered canal at 0800R/7. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 0956/7 to Admty.)

MACBETH, drifting, to be towed by ZWARTE ZEE. A.M. No. 1458A/6. LIVERPOOL reports sighting S.S. MACBETH in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. at 1430 G.M.T./3. Position based on sun and star sighting is considered accurate. F.O.C. N.F.F. pass to PRUDENT.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1044A/7 to F.O.C. N.F.F.)
Admty. 0723A/6 and my 1347A/6. When PIMPERNEL has fuelled at Londonderry 8/12, ZWARTE ZEE and PIMPERNEL proceed in company to assistance of S.S. MACBETH last sighted in 046° 54' N. 034° 25' W. at 1430 G.M.T./3, broken down and drifting East N.E. at 2 knots. Rescue Tug PRUDENT is proceeding from St. Johns N.F. with orders to tow MACBETH towards Clyde and is to be relieved by ZWARTE ZEE if possible.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1104A/7 to PIMPERNEL, ZWARTE ZEE.)
Your 0755. Proceed to Loch Foyle to await escort. Report E.T.A. Loch Foyle before sailing.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0813A/7 to ZWARTE ZEE.)
Proceeding in accordance with your 0813A/7 passing Gate 0900. E.T.A. Loch Foyle 1300.
(ZWARTE ZEE, 0850/7.)
My 1104A/7. S.S. MACBETH is still able to make W/T.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1644A/7 to ZWARTE ZEE, PIMPERNEL.)
Your 1104A/7 and your 1644A/7 acknowledged. Request signal letters of MACBETH.
(ZWARTE ZEE, 1945A/7 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S/M SURCOUF. Bermuda departure 7/12 French S/M SURCOUF for Halifax at 1100Q. Speed 11 knots. Routed direct. E.T.A. Halifax 0700Q/10.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1102Q/7 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

F.J. WOLFE. Your 1932/6 F.J. WOLFE arrived p.m./6th. Q Q Q Q Message cancel plain language and Code.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao, 1105QR/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DUNEDIN survivors. B.A.D. Washington's 2107R/2. 67 survivors including 4 officers ex DUNEDIN landed. Ship struck by 2 torpedoes 1326 G.M.T./24/11. Position 003° N. 026° W. Interval between torpedoes 6 - 15 seconds. Ship listed 035° within 5 minutes. Believed no boats got away.

/6 or 7 ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

DUNEDIN survivors. (Contd.)

6 or 7 rafts got away but only 6 assembled and stayed together 78 hours before being picked up. Apart from lack of food and water were attacked and bitten by very vicious small fish causing several casualties. First torpedo wrecked main W/T office, distress signal made on R C O set but some doubt if it would be received. Large U-Boat seen believed to be U.26. Surfaced for about 5 minutes after ship sank ¼ mile from ship. Possibly some survivors picked up. During first night 2 green Very lights seen 6 to 8 miles from raft at intervals of about ½ hour. All survivors except one off danger list. Capt. Lovatt last seen in water on large box. (? Control) and treatment of survivors in NISHMAHA beyond all praise. Have written letter of thanks to master.
(N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 1227Q/7 to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your 2159/3. CARNARVON CASTLE should meet pilot at 0800 zone 5 time on date of arrival 2½ miles N. of Cape Henry and fly Red Ensign on entering. Request actual date of arrival in order to warn U.S. Authorities.
(B.A.R.M., 1240R/7 to C. in C. S.A.)

ODDVAR II.

N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. reports Finnish ODDVAR II came within 7 miles of Botwood N.F. 3/12 and turned away.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1402Z/7 to Admty., etc.)
Finnish ODDVAR II anchored in Argentia at 0230Z/6.
(C.C.N.F., 1626Z/7 to Admty., etc.)

WINDFLOWER sunk. NASTURTIUM damaged.

WINDFLOWER sunk by collision in fog with S.S. BALTARA (Note. Name of ship was S.S.ZYPENBERG) at 1250Z, 046° 19' N. 049° 42' W., PICTOU with 15 survivors from WINDFLOWER escorting steamship (? MOREA) to St. John's N.F. NASTURTIUM damaged as a result of tending (corrupt group) wreck of WINDFLOWER is returning to St. John's N.F. in company. Weather report.
(ST. LAURENT, 1704Z/7 to U.S.C.N.O.)

Shipping Routes.

Your 2230/4. We feel this procedure is not necessary on this side especially in view of fact that an H.X. ship may return to Sydney for lack of speed or even St. John's N.F., for urgent repairs. Reversing southward route might delay ship by an amount which would just make her miss another convoy.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1704Z/7 to Admty.)

/O.N. 43 ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N.43. BROKE reports Convoy last seen 1700Z/6 now believed unescorted and scattered. Ships have been ordered to R/V at0900Z/8 in 59.40 N. 12.00 W. Convoy will be at least 24 hours late at M.O.M.P. Recommendations for new M.O.M.P. will follow.
(D.T.D., 1735Z/7 to Opnav.)

Balboa Closed. Shipping Recalled. Following Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour authorities have closed Port of Balboa and are recalling all vessels that have sailed within last three days. They immediately advised they are placing censorship on all cable and wireless telegraphy and ordered blackout of canal zone. Japanese Nationals being rounded up in Republic of Panama.
(C.S.A. Panama, 1805/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ST. FRANCIS. Position 056° 46' N. 038° 33' W. Weather report.
(ST. FRANCIS, 1800Z/7 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE. Your 2142Q/4. Concur.
2. INDOMITABLE's 0020/5. Request you will report her intended programme as far as Trinidad. 3. A.M. 1158A/3 is cancelled.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1809A/7 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Admty. 1809A/7. Request proposed programme.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 2212Q/7 to INDOMITABLE.)

Finnish Shipping. Your 1727A/1st. Paragraph 3 (D) (1) Captain C. Trinidad reports Finnish crew including Master removed from Panamanian ex Finnish BRITA THORDEN, ESTER THORDEN, ROSENBORG. Charterers Alcoa Company informed. Ship remains under guard pending taking over by new crew.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1823Q/7 to Admty.)

ALIAKMON. NAMARIB. Your 1836A/6. No news of arrival either ship. Am making enquiries.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1827Z/7 to Admty.)

War with Japan. Hostilities with Japan commenced with air raid on Pearl Harbour at 1830Z. Inform British, Dutch, and Spenavo.
(Opnav, 1925/7 to D.N.I. Admty.)
Note: No action by War Registry to inform Dutch Authorities.
Have executedWPL 46 against Japan. Inform Admty., Opnav.
(D.N. Washington D.C., 1947/7 to Spenavo, London.)

/U.S.N. ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 7.12.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S.N. dispositions.

In consequence of loss of 2 battleships and heavy casualties to aircraft at Hawaii U.S. Chief of Naval Operations is considering transferring back from Atlantic to Pacific of 3 battleships MISSISSIPPI Class, U.S. A/C Carrier YORKTOWN, 2 destroyers and 36 patrol planes.
(ii) Pacific Fleet has now only 6 effective battleships. One other, believed to be COLORADO, is out of action until about February requiring extensive electrical repairs from previous (? defects).
(iii) U.S. C.N.O. considers proposed transfer of destroyers will only slightly if at all affect strength of escort with H.X. convoys since 5 destroyers are now operating with MISSISSIPPI Class battleships and 4 are working with U.S. A/C Carrier YORKTOWN.
My 2029R/7th Part One.
(B.A.D., 2021R/7 to Admty.)
My 2029R, part 2. (No Part I in W.D.)
(iv) U.S. C.N.O. realizes transfer of patrol planes will greatly lessen potential effectiveness of air escort for Atlantic convoys, but prevailing winter weather has already severely restricted flying from Argentia and Iceland (C).
(v) U.S. C.N.O. would like to have your views urgently as situation regarding these proposals is considered serious and transfer necessary.
(vi) View was expressed that relief for Force H could not be provided now. It was stated U.S. Battleships WASHINGTON and NORTH CAROLINA would not be in service till May.
(B.A.D., 2029R/7 to Admty.)

Iceland Convoys.

Subsequent to O.N.45 it is intended to discontinue sailing ships for Iceland (C) in O.N. convoys. (New arrangements).
(A.C.N.S. (T), 2031A/7 to B.A.D.)
(See also Shipping.)

Australia and New Zealand.

SYDNEY action.

Interim report of interrogation of survivors from Raider No. 41 (STEIRMARK).
(A.C.N.B., 0700Z/7 to Admty., etc.)
See Lion Copy.

/Pearl ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

7.12.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Pearl Harbour Raid.

Raid on Pearl Harbour, Honolulu, carried out by Japanese aircraft and U-Boats at 6.30 p.m./7 appears to have caused considerable damage. U.S. battleship OKLAHOMA capsized, U.S. battleship TENNESSEE caught fire and attempts are being made to dock her. (These vessels were constructed in 1914 and 1919 respectively and have been modernised.) Hits were obtained on destroyers in dock, resulting in 1 blowing up and another being set on fire. A minelayer was also set on fire. 4 airfields were attacked and hangars and some aeroplanes on the ground were set on fire. The power stations appear also to have been hit but not put out of action. Personnel casualties thought to be heavy. Japanese S/M's and aeroplanes were attacked and one S/M and at least 2 aircraft are reported destroyed.
(D.O.R., 8/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.12.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CLAN MACBEAN. Your 1546/5. Hope from wording of SSSS signal that she escaped.
(C. in C. S.A. 1216Z/7 to Admty.)

DUNEDIN. Torpedoed 24/11. See N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1227Q/7, America and West Indies.

Submarines Reported.

0823 HIGHLANDER investigating contact in Bay.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0823/7 to Gibraltar Force.)

A/C sightings 6/12. Catalina on A/S Patrol to the west sighted 2 U-Boats, (1) at 1234/6 position 36.19 N. 08.50 W. Catalina not attacked. (2) at 1545/6 position 36.45 N. 09.22 W. Catalina on escort to RANGITATA remained airborne until 0330/7 and sighted 2 U-Boats, (1) at 2215/6 position 36.40 N. 08.58 W. no attack, (2) at 0145/7 position 36.04 N. 07.53 W. attacked.
(200 Group, 0915/7.)

1001. Investigate oil patch in position 260° Cape Spartel, 16 miles.
(Gibraltar C.C.O. 1001/7 to LEGION.)

1215. Following from Fulmar, one submarine 230° Spartel 25, course 030° at 1215, am proceeding to position HARVESTER and HESPERUS.
(LEGION 1240A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

K destroyer G 74 reports U-boat 230° Spartel 25, 1215.
(A/C duty D., 202 Sqdn. 1320/7 to 200 Group.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1403A/7, 1404A/7.)

2042C. U-Boat reported operating in vicinity Kildinbuzzer B.S. (S.B.N.O., N. Russia 2042C/7 to SHEFFIELD.)

S.Atlantic. D/F bearings at 0144Z and 0219Z/7 indicate U-Boat within 100 miles of 017° 30' S. and 010° 30' W.65% reliable.
(C. in C. S.A. 2051Z/7 to S.A. Stn.)

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By VETCH 6/11 (non-sub)

My 2235A/6. Contact lost. VETCH in vicinity remainder group 2 carry out extensive search. (STORK, 0130A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Have personally investigated scene of VETCH and CONVOLVULUS contact and consider them non Sub. Am leaving these two ships and resuming patrol with remainder.
(STORK 0316A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)

By A/C.

PPP 1 S/M 36.04 N. 07.33 W. 090 M 2.
(A/C J of No.202 Sqn. 0140/7 to 200 Group.)
Position 90' S.E. Cape St. Vincent.
(D.S. 824.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 1 hit.
(A/C J. of No.202 Sqn. 0145/7 to 200 Group.)

By ALOUETTE.

Have attacked contact with Depth charges position 326° P C L 34 miles.
(ALOUETTE, 1123A/7 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Position 326° C. Espichel 34', 38½° N., 9¼° W. (D.S. 825.)

Mediterranean.

Attacked by A/C. See Mediterranean. (1319/7.)

By A/Cs.

A/S operations 6/7 Dec. At 2215/6, Catalina sighted submarine on surface in 36.40 N. 08.58 W. steering 135°, 6 knots. Submarine dived. Aircraft was too high to attack.
(2) At 0140/7, same Catalina sighted submarine in 36.04 N. 07.33 W. steering 090°, 12 knots. Attack with depth charges was made and one hit estimated. (3) At 1240/7, Fulmar sighted submarine in position 230° Spartel 25 steering 030° Aircraft attacked with machine guns.
(4) Two destroyers sweeping in area South of St. Vincent, aircraft co-operating.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2330A/7 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

KENT left Scapa at 1815 today for Murmansk carrying a delegation for Moscow, headed by Mr. Eden.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command carried out last night their first operations during the present month. Attacks were made on Calais, Ostend, Brest, Boulogne, and Dunkirk.

Enemy Air Operations.

Group 41 M.S. Trawlers was attacked at 1715 today off Lunen Bay and PHINEAS BEARD and MILFORD EARL were sunk.

Mining.

Further enemy aircraft minelaying last night is suspected between the Humber and Outer Dowsing. S.S. FIREGLOW was sunk in 53° 18' 36" N. 1° 5' 0" E.

Amongst the mines detonated in the Thames Estuary today was one by M.M.S.113, 45 and DELPHINUS sweeping S.A. and L.L. for enemy mines which require simultaneous magnetic and acoustic sweeping.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

Two ex-Japanese trawlers PRESIDENTE MITRE and PRESIDENTE ROCA left Buenos Aires, at 1300 G.M.T today, flying the Argentine flag. These ships are fitted with very powerful short and medium wave wireless and have Japanese in their crews, and are considered suspects. (See however 13/12).

Since U-boats in the South Atlantic appear to be moving northwards the U.S. Navy Dept. wish their merchant ships to resume calling at Capetown instead of Durban.

S.O.I. Capetown reports today that it may be inferred from the known facts, that S.S. THODE FAGELUND, sunk off East London on 17/11 by unknown explosion, was torpedoed by a Vichy S/M.

Mediterranean.

Very slight damage was caused to Hal Far by air attack last night.

TALISMAN reported at 2155B that she had engaged with gun and obtained 4 hits on an unidentified destroyer in 38° 0' N., 20° 28' E., steering 155°, TALISMAN fired 4 torpedoes which passed under the enemy vessel.

Libya and Western Desert.

4000 lb. bombs were dropped on Derna, Benghazi and Tripoli last night.

APHIS successfully bombarded a road 13 miles West of Tobruk last night for an hour.

U-boats.

R/C aircraft reported 3 sightings of U-boats today between Crete and Cyrenaica, but attacks were unsuccessful.

/SURCOUF...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SURCOUF. The Admiralty today ordered SURCOUF (intercepted 25/11) at Aden, and her cargo, to be seized in prize.

East Indies.

At 1048Z today C. in C. E.I. modified the instructions broadcast yesterday to shipping. Ships proceeding to Area 4 are to call at Colombo for orders; all other shipping in the Indian Ocean west of the longitude of Colombo is to proceed as usual. Special routeing instructions were issued for ships proceeding to ports in the Bay of Bengal; independent sailing continues to Burma as far as Rangoon.

It is reported that GLASGOW sank the Indian auxiliary PRABHAVATI and 2 barges at 1930 today about 200 miles S.W.of Bombay, having mistaken them for U-boats.

China.

Certain duties, previously carried out by C. in C. China, have now devolved on Commodore, Malaya.

Hong Kong. Japanese forces crossed the land frontier with the New Territories this morning. Barracks in Kowloon and Kai-Tak Aerodrome were bombed at 0900 local time today; some aircraft were destroyed on the ground and there were over 100 civilian and a few military casualties. The Governor of Hong Kong proclaimed a state of war with Japan. There was a second air raid this afternoon, when enemy aircraft unsuccessfully attacked shore batteries and naval units; no casualties are reported. In all, there were 8 air raids on Hong Kong today.

/Malaya....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

Malaya.

A landing took place from 5 Japanese ships between Kelantan River and Sabak shortly after 0130 today (see 7/12) Later, a force of 10 merchant ships was seen some 10 miles to the south. Considerable fighting took place north of Kota Bharu Aerodrome which was abandoned by our aircraft. By 0800 all enemy surface craft were retiring and mopping up operations were in progress on shore. Two enemy ships were set on fire by our air attacks.

There was a minor air raid on Singapore Island at 0415 today (see 7/12) mainly concentrated on Seletar and Tengah Aerodromes, whilst Gong Kedah and Machang Aerodromes were also bombed. No appreciable damage is reported, but there were some 200 casualties all Asiatic; the bombs were all dropped at random amongst the civil population.

Four Catalinas to be sent to Singapore from the U.K. as soon as possible.

The question of providing destroyers for the Eastern Fleet is under consideration. The redistribution of the U.S. Naval forces will affect our ability to reinforce the Eastern

All fishing v[illegible]ized this morning.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet proceeded this evening with PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE to attack the enemy force off Kota Bharu at daylight 10th. He was informed at 2253 G.H/8 that owing to the military situation fighter protection could not be provided for his ships.

Thailand.

Japanese landings were reported at Patani today. In consequence of the Japanese having invaded Thailand British forces crossed the Thailand frontier at two places today. Contact was made with the enemy south of Singora. Our troops later withdrew. It is reported that the Thai Govt. ordered resistance to cease after a few hours fighting.

/After....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

After recent discussions between C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Australian and N.Z. naval authorities a redistribution of Australian and New Zealand cruisers has been proposed in an endeavour to collect cruisers for an operation with the British Battle Fleet and a striking force along the Malay Barrier. This will leave insufficient escort for Trans-Pacific shipping between New Zealand and Panama, air trainees in Matson liners from Auckland to San Francisco, and shipping between Torres Strait and U.S.A. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is asking C. in C. Pacific Fleet if he can assist in escorting this shipping. EXETER has been ordered to Singapore; and N.Z.N.B. have been asked to send ACHILLES to Singapore (this latter move was cancelled on 11/12 and ACHILLES was placed at the disposal of N.Z.N.B. who at 0347M/12 ordered her to return to Auckland)
The refit of MAURITIUS is being hastened as much as possible and C. in C. Eastern Fleet asks that HOBART may be ordered east from the Mediterranean. There is great need of further modern cruisers, but none are available.

Midway Is. — Midway Island was bombarded today by a 6-inch cruiser or destroyer.

America & West Indies.

In consequence of Admiralty instructions issued tomorrow (B.S.T.) C. in C. A.W.I. today (local time) reported that he had instructed ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are north of the latitude of Bermuda to proceed to Bermuda for re-routeing. Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are south of the latitude of Bermuda are to proceed to Colon and await instructions.

Instructions were issued by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa today that British and Allied ships on the west coast of U.S.A. and Canada may be sailed on coastal voyages between San Pedro and Vancouver but not trans-Pacific or between San Pedro and Panama until further orders. Later, the U.S. Authorities stopped all coastal movements north of Panama and orders were given by Ottawa for all movements of British and Allied shipping on the west coast of U.S.A. to cease. C. in C. A.W.I. also proposed that in view of the urgent need to maintain the flow of traffic trans-Pacific

/Shipping...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

shipping should continue to sail and should be routed to New Zealand for onward instructions and that coastal traffic on the west coast of America should not be suspended.

Australia.

A Japanese flying boat bombed Ocean Island this morning and again later. The W/T station is still functioning. Enemy aircraft approached Nauru at 0100Z today, but made no attack.

New Zealand.

ACHILLES left Auckland this morning for Singapore.

U-Boat Campaign

U-boat contacts were obtained in the Strait of Gibraltar and approaches yesterday and today. Sightings and attacks were made and in one attack by HESPERUS at 2004/7 in 35° 57' N., 7° 56' W., men appear to have been washed off the U-boat during a crash dive.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

No Tug in Iceland.

No tug now available here.
(? A.C.I.C., 0936N/8 to Admty.)

A.M.C. Movements.

My 1240A/1 as amended by my 1100A/4.
No change.
(S.O.W.P., 1207A/8.)

Co-operation with U.S.A.

Orders to U.S. Naval Forces.

Spenavo, London 0336/8.
See China.

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian S/M Patrols.

Soviet K.1 sails by route B and parallel 72.15 N. for Zone 2 a.m./9.
CHUKA 421 arrives Zone 5 p.m./8.
Admty. pass to addressees on next H.S. routine.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1821C/8 to SEALION, SEAWOLF.)

Delegation in KENT.

KENT left Scapa 1815 today for Murmansk with delegation Mr. Eden, Mr. Maisky, V.C.I.G.S., &c. for Moscow.
3. British Ambassador Moscow has been informed.
4. E.T.A. 1100C/12. Approaching position MZ on course 238°, 18 knots.
5. Request following light and D/F beacons. Group R for 30 minutes at 0100C/12. Group R Y Z from 0530C/12 until arrival.
(A.C.N.S. H., 2348A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Movements.

SHEFFIELD, HAZARD, EASTBOURNE.

SHEFFIELD, HAZARD, EASTBOURNE arrived Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1041C/8.)

O.21, UNA. P.38.

(a) After passing 049° 30' N. 011° W. proceed through 050° 10' N. 010° W. to R/V off Trevose Head a.m./11 time and position to be ordered by Capt. S.3.
(b) Estimated position at 0800/9 of O.21, UNA, and P.38.
(F.O.S., 1207A/8 to O.21.)
(1) F.O.S. 1207A/8. R/V WHITE BEAR in 250° Trevose Head 10 miles at 0900A/11 and proceed in company to Holy Loch.
(2) Light as follows.
(3) T.B.R. in area 51 from 0800A/11 until 1600A/11.
(Capt. S.3, 1737A/8 to O.21.)

/EDINBURGH...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 8.12.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

EDINBURGH, ECHO, ESCAPADE.
My 1238A/4. Request you sail EDINBURGH, ECHO, and ESCAPADE for Seidis Fiord p.m. today. Time of R/V with P.Q.6 will be signalled accordingly known.
(C. in C. H.F., 1237A/8 to C.S.18.)
Scapa departures for Seidis Fiord. 1815 ESCAPADE, 1817 ECHO, 1857 EDINBURGH.
(A.C.O.S., 1859A/8.)

MANXMAN.
1. MANXMAN is to be sailed for Milford Haven.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1247A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

RAMILLIES, VANQUISHER, WITCH, VOLUNTEER.
My 1716A/6. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1332A/8.)

FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, FORESTER, ONSLOW, IMPULSIVE, ORIBI.
FAULKNOR with FORESIGHT, FORESTER, proceed 1400 to-morrow passing through 058° 45' N. 007° W. thence through Reykjanes Passage to Hvalfjord.
2. On arrival relieve ONSLOW, IMPULSIVE, ORIBI as screen for RODNEY, who are then to return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1421A/8.)

KENT.
Admiralty please inform S.B.O's North Russia and Archangel of KENT's 2001A/7 which is being passed to all addressees. Information regarding shipping and enemy aircraft has been passed to KENT.
(C. in C. H.F., 1519A/8.)
Departure Scapa at 1859 KENT for Seidisfiord.
(A.C.O.S., 1859A/8.)

ARETHUSA.
Scapa arrival.
(A.C.O.S., 1600/8.)

ICARUS.
ICARUS is to proceed forthwith to Sullom Voe and await further orders.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1644A/8.)

HUSSAR.
P.C.S. 061° 29' N. 004° 20' W., 180°, 11 knots. Position fixed by stars. Request group 9 lights from 0600 to 0830 to-morrow Tuesday. E.T.A. 1200/9.
(HUSSAR, 1930A/8 to A.C.O.S.)

REGENT. UNA.
Your 1110A/8. Request REGENT be routed to pass through positions L. 43° N. 10° 30' W.

/at about ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

REGENT. UNA. (Contd.)

at about 0900A/13 thence submerged by day through following positions M, N, and O to R/V off Isle of Wight a.m./17 as ordered by S.5.
(2) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange S.B.R. as follows.
(3) UNA leaves Biscay west zone after dark 14/12 through 44° N. 9° W. submerged by day due 43° N. 10° 30' W. at about 0800/15, thence on surface to Gibraltar.
(F.O.S., 2243A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operations.

Unknown Operation.

My 2221/5 and 1721/7. REVIEW sailed. (M.G.B. 319 and M.A/S.B. 36)
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0713/8 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

SEALION.

German official communique issued at 1300 on 6th Dec. 2 British Submarines sunk off Norwegian coast. Only possible Submarine to which this claim could refer appears to be SEALION.
(F.O.S., 1204A/8 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Withdraw north of 71° 30' N. and acknowledge my 1821C/8, then return to patrol.
Admiralty pass to SEALION on next H.S. routine.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2102C/8.)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY.

F.O.i/c. Belfast's 1904A/4 and Admty. 1853A/26. Request you provide Trawler escort for MARIE LOUISE MACKAY to vicinity of Gt. Skellig. Escort should remain during period of operations.
It is now proposed to proceed with inshore work only in the vicinity of Valencia and it is estimated that this will require at least 3 weeks to complete.
(A.C.N.S. T., 1337A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Patrol.

On night 8/9, 2 Chasseurs on patrol between St. Helens and Beachy Head.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1557A/8.)

Operation "Anklet".

(i) Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by WELLARD for Scapa at 1700A/10. E.T.A. Scapa 0930A/12.
(ii) N.O.i/c. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. Speed of advance 10 knots.
(Capt. S.3, 1801A/8.)

/My 1603A/26/11 ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Anklet". (Contd.)

My 1603A/26/11 and 2335A/5 and C. in C. Nore's 0959A/28/11 and 1844A/28/11.
It is desired to transport 8 officers and 75 military other ranks from Invergordon to Scapa.
C. in C. Nore is requested to sail MONTROSE and WORCESTER to arrive Invergordon on 16/12 to embark arms ammunition and baggage.
Personnel will embark a.m./17 and N.O.I.C. Invergordon is requested to sail ships to arrive Scapa same day.
(D.O.D. H., 2113A/8.)

Russian S/M Patrols.

S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1821C/8.
See Co-operation with Russia.

Exercise L.4.

My 1300A/7 para. 2. It is confirmed that the personnel ships referred to in your 1750/6 will not be required for the operational exercise on 12/12.
(E.P.S., 2058A/8 to C.Q.2.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing Operations.

From day 1/12 to day 7/12 inclusive, no operations owing to weather. On night 7/8, 20 A/C bombed Calais, 18 Ostend, 12 Boulogne, 10 Dunkirk, and 22 Brest where the smoke screen was working effectively.
(H.Q.B.C., 1525/8.)

S.B.R.

Request S.B.R's in area between 044° and 045° N. between 007° and 009° W. from 1700/10 until further notice.
(F.O.S., 1552A/8 to A.O. C. in C. C.C.)
Request S.B.R. between 049° and 050° N., between 013° and 015° W. from 1800/10 until 0400/16.
(F.O.S., 1554/8 to H.Q.C.C.)
My 2153A/4 para. 2. Cancel request for S.B.R. between 049° 30' N. 001° W. and Bishop Rock.
Request instead S.B.R. (a) 25 miles either side of line joining 049° 30' N., 011° W., and 050° 10' N. 010° W. from 1800/8 until 2100/10.
(b) 35 miles either side of line joining 050° 10' N. 010° W. and Trevose Head from 2200/8 until further notice.
(F.O.S., 1951A/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

Escort withdrawn.

Air escort withdrawn from "Attempt" owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore, 1627A/8 to WALLACE.)

MOST SECRET

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Enemy Air Activity.

Grimsby attacked.

(a) Incendiaries started a fire near Grimsby Docks at 1910/7. Approx. 12 hostile aircraft in vicinity. Number one basket group was used at G.R.1.
(b) 80 Wing was informed immediately afterwards.
(c) Attack failed to materialise. No reports of H.E. at Parent or Site. S.F. out by 2050 and all quiet.
(F.O. Humber, 1155A/8.)

AELYBRYN attacked.

S.S. AELYBRYN attackedat 1300/7 by enemy A/C, position Girdleness 260° 20 miles whilst driven eastward by gale having lost touch with convoy E.N.16.
One man injured by M.G. fire. Ship undamaged.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1715/8.)

PHINEAS BEARD (M/S Trawler) sunk.
MILFORD EARL (M/S Trawler) damaged.

Group 41 M.S. Trawlers was attacked by hostile aircraft at 1715/8 while under way off Lunen Bay. PHINEAS BEARD received direct hit and sank immediately. MILFORD EARL badly damaged and on fire but efforts being made to save vessel. 4 wounded ratings from MILFORD EARL have been landed at Montrose and 8 survivors from MILFORD EARL and 10 from PHINEAS BEARD are onboard other trawlers.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee, 2130/8.)

Fair Isle.

At 1400/8 a Junker 88 A/C bombed the South Lighthouse on Fair Isle, killing one woman and damaging the building.
(D.S. 826.)

Mining.

S.N. 25C.

Intend carry out operation S.N. 25C as follows, with MENESTHEUS and SCOTT. From 058° 34'42" N. 006° 54'48" W. through 058° 39'42" N. 006° 45' W. to 058° 43'24" N. 006° 52'06" W. Sail 1700/10. Lay at 0110/11. Return Port ZA 1000/11.
(R.A.M., 1247A/8.)

Sweep of QZS 286.

C.O. LADY PHILOMENA reports that the mines which sank S.S. GREENLAND gave a distinct flash resembling a torpedo. This might indicate the presence of T mines. Commander M.S and P is arranging an Oropesa sweep of Q Z S 286 using 10 fathoms of float wire as soon as weather permits.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, 1315A/8.)

/WELSH PRINCE ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

WELSH PRINCE (Mined 7/12)

Arrival MALLARD at 1315 with survivors of WELSH PRINCE.
(F.O. Humber, 1338A/8.)

FIREGLOW (British, 1261 Tons) sunk.

My 1319A/8. FIREGLOW sunk in 053° 18'36" N. 001° 05'00" E. Have picked up 19 survivors, one man missing. Intend to proceed to Humber with 2 seriously injured. E.T.A. 1545.
(VERDUN, 1346A/8.)
Arrival VERDUN at 1630 with survivors of FIREGLOW.
(F.O. Humber, 1658A/8.)

SEVERN TRANSPORT (Mined 7/12)

Six ft. of mast showing at Lwos. Position 51° 24'38" N. 3° 05'39" W.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1618A/8.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Naval Units.

Graded C.3. (Low gradings).
(N.A. Stockholm, 1721/8.)
O.I.C. Comment. (A) If correct these warships were probably HIPPER and KOLN.
(B) These ships cannot be identified but they may possibly be the new cruiser minelayers.
(C) No other report of this nature of camouflage has been received, and this report should be treated with reserve.

Armed M/V's at Havre.

Pru sortie A/39 at 1120/8 shows Havre since 29/11 two M/V's 360 ft. and 340 ft. have arrived in Bassin Bellot West. Both vessels heavily armed, the former with five and other with four gun platforms. Possible that the M/V 360 ft. may have been present elsewhere in port on 29/11 but not reported owing to poor quality photographs.
(P.R.U. Benson, 1825/8.)

Navigational.

Firth of Forth.

Ships are not to approach within five cables of position 056° 09'39" N. 002° 52' W.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2344/8.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ROSTHERN. — Your 0138A/8. My position is 060° 10' N. 010° 08' W., course 245°, speed 9 knots. Asdic compartment flooded. Gasket leaking badly main steam line. Present maximum speed 9 knots. Stopped for temporary repairs to steam line rejoining Convoy and propose I should stop Iceland for repairs and fuel. Time required probably 6 hours.
(ROSTHERN, 0400A/8.)

VERITY. — Proceed to Holyhead for docking.
(C. in C. W.A., 1027A/8 to VERITY.)

SAUTERNES. — RONALDSHAY and KERRERA have swept Nolso Fiord in company. Bodies of 2 men submerged objects from SAUTERNES, washed ashore at Svino at 1050A/8th.
(Scapa W/T, 1310A/8.)
SAUTERNES bound Thorshavn from Kirkwall believed sunk in gale at 1530/7 in vicinity Svino Faeroes. N.O.i/c Faeroes 1810/7 and 1310/8 are passed for information. Air and surface search has so far failed to locate survivors. Further air search arranged for tomorrow.
(A.C.O.S., 1804A/8.)

RHEINHAUSEN (German, 6298 tons) — Reported on 8/12 that she had run aground in Degarham Roads, Kalmarsund, S.W. Sweden and was unlikely to be able to control water for long.
(D.S., 826.)

BAHIA (German, 4117 tons) — Reported in Swedish Press to be firmly aground outside Varberg on 7/12.
(D.S., 826.)

EQUATOR (Finnish, 4595 tons) — Reported in Swedish Press to have sunk near Sundsuall after grounding on passage to Lulea. Crew saved by Tug VALKYRIE.
(D.S., 826.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.G.77. — O.G.77 reduced to 6½ knots by (? defect) in
(Nothing further heard vide W/T)
(BLACK SWAN, No T.O.O./8, Recd. 0258/8.)

F.N. 72. — F.N. No.72 very spread out. Rear ships between Sheringham and 57 C Buoy. Speed 5 knots.
(VERDUN, 0846A/8.)

/Commodore ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

F.N. 72. (Contd.)
Commodore at 59 buoy. 6½ knots. VERDUN divert rear ships to Humber. E.T.A. Tyne 0400/9.
(VALOROUS, 0933A/8.)
Your 0933. Rear of main body now at 59 buoy. 8 stragglers extending 15 miles back will be diverted to Humber. Request escort at H 3 buoy.
(VERDUN, 1140A/8 to VALOROUS.)

F.N.73. F.S.67.
Your 2310/7. Intend to sail ROMNEY and RHYL to meet F.N.73 and F.S.67.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0946A/8.)
F.N.73 is to keep to the Western half of the Channel between Sheringham and H 3 buoy.
(C. in C. Nore, 1251A/8 to WALLACE.)

E.N.17.
E.N.17 postponed 26 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1011/8.)

W.N.16.
My 1011/8. Owing to postponement of E.N.17 request W.N.16 be postponed about 24 hours.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1110/8.)
Your 1110A/8. W.N.16 (slow) will sail 24 hours late. Amend my 0951A/7/12 accordingly.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1249A/8.)

O.N. M. O.N. C. O.N. B.
DAHLIA with O.N.(M) on time O.N.(C) 2 hours late O.N.(B) 4 hours late. DAHLIA instructed to reduce speed.
(ARABIS, 1112A/8.)

O.N.43.
Report situation forthwith repeating your signal to BROKE and NEWPORT.
(C. in C. W.A., 1236A/8 to Escorts O.N.S.43)
Your 1236A/8. Temporary engine repairs complete. RAJASTAN armoured. 1200A/8 P.C.S. 059° 40' N. 012° W., 285°, 8 knots. RAJASTAN reports passing 5 ships early this morning probably now eastwards of me.
(ROSTHERN, 1545N/8.)
Your 0400A/8 and 1545N/8. Endeavour to join RAJAHSTAN to O.N.43 and remain with convoy until further orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 1958A/8 to ROSTHERN.)

P.Q. Convoys.
Your 1801C/6. Every effort is made to maintain punctuality of P.Q. Convoys.
2. It appears that neither you nor the Russians sufficiently realise the navigational difficulties that these convoys experience during winter.
(A.C.N.S. T., 1336A/8 to S.N.O. Archangel.)

/18th M/L....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

18th M/L. Flotilla.

I note with satisfaction the number of convoys successfully escorted by the 18th M/L. Flotilla since August.
(C. in C. W.A., 1632A/8 to MENTOR II.)

W.S.14.

WESTCOTT and BEAUFORT sailed in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1519/2, para. 3. E.T.A. Londonderry 2330A/8.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1659A/8.)

E.N.18(F)

Sailing time advanced 24 hours to 1100/11.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1919/8.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

My P.C. and S. are 036° 10' 008° 20' 320° 14 knots. Intend to steer for a position 040° 30' 013° 30' then steer for 300° ? (HARVESTER) in company. (HESPERUS 1000A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Enemy Convoy (Incorrect Report.) — V.A. Malta 1051B/8, Admty. 1159A/8, S.O. Force H. 1248A/8, F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/8, V.A. Malta 1645A/8. See Mediterranean.

REGENT. — Intend to sail REGENT 10th. REGENT will pass through 43° 00' 10° 30' about 0900A/13 shifting W/T watch at that time. F.O.S. is requested to signal onward route and bombing restriction. S. of A. when submerged by day 160 miles. Carrying 4 torpedoes only. (F.O.C.N.A. 1110A/8 to Admty.) REGENT arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/8 to Admty. etc.)

AUDACITY. — Your 1057A/7. AUDACITY can operate with 2 Diesel generators but consider essential 3rd generator should be repaired with new crank shaft on her return with H.G.76. (F.O.C.N.A. 1132A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

SEVERN JONQUIL. — My 1136A/5. Escort is JONQUIL. Bombing restrictions arranged. Keep good lookout for U-Boats. (F.O.C.N.A. 1136A/8 to SEVERN.)

URSULA. — 2 destroyers on north and south patrol 20 miles east Gibraltar, aircraft may co-operate. Comply strictly with my 1108A/6. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208A/8 to URSULA.)

JAY IBIS S.L.94. — JAY 038° 23' 028° 35' 160° 7. S.L.94 026° 18' 024° 52' 340° 7. S.O. IBIS, situation 2003A/8. (F.O.C.N.A. 1446A/8 to A.I.G.64.)

FORTUNE defects. — Your 1146/7. Act in accordance with requirements of C. in C. Med. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1510A/8 to S.O. Force H.) Your 1146A/7th, concur. (C. in C. Med., 1241B/8 to S.O. Force H.)

/Destroyers ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 8.12.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Destroyers for E. Med. — Departures eastwards HERMIONE, EXMOOR, MAORI, BLANKNEY, to join LAFOREY, ARROW, ISAAC SWEERS. Ref. 1051/8 from V.A. Malta refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1520A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.

HERMIONE URSULA OLYMPUS. — HERMIONE and 6 destroyers left Gibraltar 1600 sweeping East 17 knots returning 0800/9. URSULA remains on patrol within 10 miles of 035° 40' 003° 20' W. until further orders. OLYMPUS is not to cross 001° 30' W. before 0001/9. Report any convoy sighted. (F.O.C.N.A. 1610A/8 to URSULA, OLYMPUS.)

JONQUIL. — Cancel A.M. 1823A/30. Port of destination for JONQUIL will be signalled later. (D.O.D.(H) 1648A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SHEAFHOLME. — My 1924/6th and my 1854 to ? Ponta Delgada. Ship again gone to sea to complete work. (R.O. Horta 1719/8 to Adty.)

C.A.M. Ships. — A.M. 2041A/13/8. It is not repeat not intended that C.A.M. ships should catapult their aircraft prior to arrival at Gibraltar. (2) Masters will be informed by D.E.M.S. Staff Officer of launching or disembarkation arrangements after arrival. (3) Request authorities concerned may be notified. (F.O.C.N.A. 1850A/8 to Adty.)

French Ships. — 1526/7. TOURQUENNOIS Deck cargo lorries P.C. and S. 036° (?34' or 29') N. 000° 38' W. 180° 8 knots. Gibraltar 1015/8 minesweeper ENGAGEANTE, S.S. BELLE ISLE SAVOIE both laden, KITA westbound. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1857A/8 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

D.19. — Your 1802A. (N.T.in W.D.) Your 1411/8. (N.T.in W.D) not received and time for destroyers to return Gibraltar unknown. Intend to sweep eastwards until 2300 returning to Gibraltar at daylight. (Capt. D.19, 1954A/8 to S.O. Force H.)

Dutch personnel for REGENT. — Dutch Admty. have asked that following personnel now in MAIDSTONE may be given early passage to U.K.(list) Request you will arrange for them to return in REGENT. On arrival in U.K. they should report on board H.N.M.S. COLOMBIA. (D.O.D.(F) 2008/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/URSULA ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

URSULA. Cancel my 1108A/6 and my 2208A/1. Leave patrol at 0400A/9 and proceed direct on surface to Gibraltar. Endeavour to arrive in daylight. Report E.T.A. T.B.R. arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2136A/8 to URSULA.)

South Atlantic.

CLAN MACBEAN. Request reasons why CLAN MACBEAN was not routed in accordance with Admty. 2311A/23 whilst CLAN MACNAUGHTON which sailed on the same day was correctly routed.
(D.T.D. 0020A/8 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)
Admty. 0030/8 (?0020/8). Neither ship was routed in accordance with your 2311/23 as this was not received until 1100/27. That CLAN MACNAUGHTON's route did happen to comply with this signal was due to policy of dispersing route as widely as possible. CLAN MACBEAN being slow and coal burning given shortest route possible subject to instructions contained in your 1505/20/11.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 1547B/8 to Admty.)

Walrus A/C. R.A.S.A.D. 1743/7. 2 Walrus aircraft are available at Wynberg.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0927B/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoys in S.A. publicity. Proposals in C. in C. S.A's 1225N/17/11 are concurred in. No objection is seen to proposals in F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 0939B/15/11 subject to censorship of photographs by F.O.I.C. particular attention being paid to stopping any photographs showing. (details).
(D.P.D. 1320A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Possible German Survivors at St. Helena or Ascension. My 1115/7 (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. S.A. informs me survivors of German raider sunk in South Atlantic 1/12 are in 15 boats and may be accompanied by a S/M or S/Ms. They are probably armed and number 500. Possible they may make for St. Helena, and estimated they could arrive here today 8th or Ascension on 11th. I have no

/anxiety ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Possible German Survivors at St. Helena or Ascension - contd.

anxiety here as problem is likely to be more administrative than operational though of course I am fully prepared for latter. Ascension is not in a position to deal with an affair of this nature and I have requested C. in C. S.A. to keep an eye on it. I am unable to reinforce Ascension from here. In view of gravity of situation and possibility of providing numerous guards I have with concurrence of Governor voluntarily enlisted 12 residents of Jamestown in St. Helena Volunteer Corps. This is all I can spare rifles and equipment for, and their primary duty will be guarding of cable and wireless station. They will only be called out on alarm. No operatives of Cable and Wireless have been enlisted.
(O.C. Troops, St. Helena, 1430/8 to W.O.)

Ex-Japanese Trawlers.

PRESIDENTE MITRE, PRESIDENTE ROCA ex Japanese trawlers left Buenos Aires today 8th at 1300 G.M.T. Fitted with very powerful short and medium wave wireless and have Japanese crews and are considered suspects. They fly the Argentine flag.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1525Z/8 to Admty.)

Vichy French intelligence. THODE FAGELUND (sunk 17/11)

Chesor Mauritius reports private telegrams to French S/M LE HEROS at Diego Suarez.
2. From this and following facts inference may be drawn that Vichy Submarine sank THODE FAGELUND. (a) 28/10 S/Ms LE GLORIEUX and LE HEROS left Dakar for Madagascar with convoy (B.A.D's 1521/31/10.) (b) 3/11"Bellringer" convoy boarded and W/T message from French Admiralty to D'IBERVILLE intercepted. (c) 10/11 convoy from Dakar returned to Dakar without the S/Ms. (B.A.D's 1703/12/11.) (d) 17/11 THODE FAGELUND sunk in 35 miles S.E. East London. (F.O.I.C's 2128/7/11.) (e) 22/11 aircraft sighted track suspected to be one or more S/Ms in 209 miles 207° from Durban Bluff and dropped bombs. (N.L.O. Durban's 2237/22/11.) (f) 7/12 Chesor Mauritius report indicates LE HEROS at Diego Suarez. Signals quoted were not to all addressees.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1532B/8 to Admty. for D.N.I., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. China, F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

S.S. CLAN MACBEAN. CLAN MACNAUGHTON.

Endeavour was made to divert both ships on 28/11. N.C.S.O. Capetown's 15(7) CLAN MACBEAN was directed to steer for position P (P) and CLAN MACNAUGHTON for position O (O). CLAN MACBEAN apparently did not obey my 1017/28.
(F.O.i/c Simonstown 1635Z/8 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

/LORD GREY ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

LORD GREY AIGLON. Intend sailing M/S trawlers LORD GREY and AIGLON about 13/12 for Freetown via Azores in accordance with A.M.1933/26/8/41. Request route. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1644A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

Cable Operation. My 1121/25/11. LADY DENISON PENDER will also be required to repair Aden-Zanzibar cable. (D.S.D. 1706A/8 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

EOLO (Spanish) Your 0315/7. Diversion of EOLO not desirable. Navicerted cargo of 7524 tons must fill a 4400 ton ship, but cargo will be checked at unloading ports. (D.E.W.D. 1710A/8 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Movements, THUNDERBOLT. One cruiser and 2 destroyers leave Alexandria at 0600B/8 and proceed to N.W. (Capt. S.1, 0009B/8 to THUNDERBOLT.)

TALISMAN PERSEUS. TALISMAN concentrate on Argostoli forthwith. PERSEUS concentrate on Northern Approaches to Argostoli. PERSEUS is heartily congratulated by flotilla on award of D.S.O. for good work in command TAKU. (S.1, 0051B/8 to S/Ms named.)

YARRA. WOLBOROUGH. HEYTHROP. AVON VALE. Your 2040/7. To avoid congestion at Tobruk on (?day) after A.T.3 arrives propose YARRA and WOLBOROUGH remain Tobruk and sail 1800/9 with any ship ready. B.S.N.O. Tobruk's 1438/7 refers. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE rejoin A.T.3. and leave at dusk 9th to R/V with YARRA at 2030/9. Motor launches to escort till "Hunts" join. If approved YARRA's route will be signalled. (S.O. Force I. 0055B/8 to R.A. Alexandria.)

THRASHER PORPOISE. THRASHER after passing 38° 00' 18° 50' proceeding through 037° 10' 020° 44' to Area Q.1 within 50 miles of Pylos Light Navarin and N.W. of line 220° from that light. PORPOISE operate S.E. of this line in Area Q. from 0001B/9th. (Capt. S.1, 0105B/8 to S/Ms named.) Your [illegible]2257B/7 not approved. Comply with my 0105B/8. (Capt. S.1 0257B/8 to THRASHER.)

/Libya ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Libya. Military Situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E. 0315/8, 1800/8). See Lion Copy.

YARRA. Sail with all despatch for Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 0415B/8 to YARRA.)

HEYTHROP AVON VALE. My 0415. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE R/V YARRA as ordered by S.O. Force I and return to Alexandria. (C. in C. Med., 0419B/8 to HEYTHROP, YARRA, AVON VALE.)
YARRA sailed 0515/8. E.T.A. Alexandria 2300/8. (B.S.N.O. Tobruk 0520/8 to C. in C. Med.)
C. in C. 0419/8. YARRA proceeding through W, T, A. HEYTHROP and AVON VALE proceeding 20 knots through T to R/V in 032° 08' N. 025° 36' E. at 1100, thence to Alexandria, E.T.A. 0200/9th.
(S.O. Force I. 0555/8 to YARRA, HEYTHROP.)

Movements Malta. 8/12 arrived AJAX, NEPTUNE, LIVELY, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR P.34.
(V.A. Malta, 0917B/8 to Admty.)

Russian Ships ex Black Sea. Adm. Kelly's 1217B/5. From information from Soviet Naval Authorities and Turkish Ambassador here it appears that all cargoes of first batch (some 25,000 tons) will be given to Turkey and that she is fully satisfied with this arrangement. Second batch will retain their cargoes on board for passage to Far East.
(Adm. Miles, 1012D/8 to Admty.)

A.T.3. Convoy A.T.3 is not to sail before p.m./9th. HANNE is to be sailed to Mersa Matruh in reserve.
(C. in C. Med., 1040B/8 to All concerned in "Aggression".)

Enemy Convoy Report. (?Solitary) Wellington reports sighting large convoy at least 10 ships in position 15 miles South of Malaga at 0115B/8 steering towards Gibraltar. No lights were shown except by leading and rear ships.
(V.A. Malta, 1051B/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
V.A. Malta's 1051B/8. Request any further information of this reported convoy including details of escort.
(V.C.N.S. 1159A/8 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1051B/8. Please interrogate closely and amplify. (S.O. Force H., 1248A/8 to V.A. Malta.)

/Your 1159A/8 ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy Report - contd.

Your 1159A/8 to F.O.C.N.A. only. Air R/C on Sunday afternoon to Eastwards of Cape De Gata saw nothing. (2) 2 destroyers on patrol about 30 miles Eastwards of Gibraltar since 2100/7. (3) Weather preventing A/C taking off now. (4) Am transferring Catalina now off Cape St. Vincent to Eastwards. (5) S.O. Force H. organizing search by surface vessels. (6) 2 French (? M/Vs) escorted by 2 trawlers passed Westwards through Straits at 1000/8.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1300A/8 to Admty.)
Your 1248A/8. Further interrogation reveals that report must be considered unreliable. A/C crew agree sighting navigation light, but no conclusive evidence as to size and number of vessels sighted. Regret caused stir but considered possibility had to be reported immediately.
(V.A. Malta, 1645B/8 to S.O. Force H.)
W.R. Note.- Report of large convoy steering towards Gibraltar.

Movements.

Departure 7/12 AVON VALE, HEYTHROP, arrival 8th HOBART, GRIFFIN, GALATEA, KIMBERLEY, CARLISLE, HOTSPUR, JAGUAR, KINGSTON, BRECONSHIRE, HILMI.
Departure 8th HERO, HAVOCK, EURYALUS.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 1126B/8 to Admty. etc.)

Russian Ships ex Black Sea.

Following from Adm. Kelly.. Russian N.A. has received orders from Molotof to ask some form of protection for Russian ships vicinity Rhodes and Castellorizo. I have pointed out these waters are traversed by night and impossibility of arranging R/V under such conditions with vessels whose previous movements so uncertain. Only possibility I could suggest to you was to have escort vessel in vicinity of Castellorizo during two most likely nights to intervene in case enemy attack was made, but I could not promise your acceptance of this proposal. Admty. repeat to Adm. Miles.
(A.N.A. Istanbul, 1206B/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Lighters for Mersa Matruh.

Intend sail coastal route at 1600/8 HANNE, MYRIEL and arrange (corrupt group) tow 3 Iron lighters, E.T.A. Mersa Matruh 1200/9th. Escort PROTEA and SOUTHERN SEA with FARNDALE, ERIDGE who detach off Mersa Matruh, returning Alexandria 20 knots. Lighters are for onward towage by ST. MONANCE.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria 1247B/8 to S.O. Force I.)

EURYALUS.

Your Force was sighted by enemy aircraft at 1105/8. (C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 1402B/8 to EURYALUS.)

/1 Blenheim ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EURYALUS contd. 1 Blenheim will be carrying out search for enemy destroyer off Derna tomorrow 0630/9. Track from Derna 334° for 40 miles returning on reciprocal 10 miles to eastward. Ordered not to attack but report all enemy sightings. (201 Group 1512B/8 to EURYALUS.)
Inference from R/C reveals it is possible you might encounter up to 2 Italian DES NAESTRALS Class and 2 Italian Gunboat ORIONE class off Derna a.m./9 not necessarily all in company. (C. in C. Med., 2304B/8 to EURYALUS.)

Bardia bombed. Night 6/7 Dec. F.A.A. Albacores dropped 250 lbs. bombs including proportion of delay fuses up to 36 hours in Bardia harbour to interfere with suspected use by enemy small shipping, during night, 1 exploded on jetty, no shipping sighted.

Derna, Benghazi bombed. Night 7/8 Dec. 1 4,000 lb. bomb dropped on Derna burst near W/T station. 2 Wellingtons dropped a 4,000 lb. bomb each on Benghazi, first hit Cathedral Mole, second caused series explosions east of town.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1418/8.)

PROTEUS. Return to Alexandria forthwith passing through 035° 50' 025° 00' 034° 41' 023° 28' 033° 04' 027° 16' thence direct to arrive sanctuary 0600B/11/12. Report your E.T.A. when safe to do so if you cannot arrive as ordered.
(Capt. S.1, 1559B/8 to PROTEUS.)

Benghazi mining. Please confirm that you concur in mining of Benghazi harbour as asked for in H.Q. R.A.F. M.E's 1053/7 to H.Q. Malta and advanced H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. only.
(V.A. Malta, 1631B/8 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Raid. 2016 to 0410 hours 11 JU.88 intruders crossed coast, bombs land sea. Very slight damage buildings Hal Far 1 private killed 6 slightly injured.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1715/8.)

Tripoli bombed. Night 7/8. Bad weather Benghazi. 2 Mark 2 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli, dropped 1 4000 lb. bomb near warehouses and another in town. 6 successful attacks Castel Benito Aerodrome.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta 1718/8.)

/Convoy ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Convoy T.A.2. Route for T.A.2 speed 7 knots code name "Bosom". Sailing 1800/9th S direct to L at 0330 10th N 1015 A 2000 by coast route to Alexandria E.T.A. 1530 11th. Intend FARNDALE ERIDGE proceed on arrival Mersa Matruh through N and L adjusting speed to R/V after daybreak convoy at 2030 9th. Motor launches to assist C.406 escorting till "Hunts" join. Fighter protection required p.m./9th for FARNDALE and ERIDGE and daylight hours of 10th and 11th for convoy. "A" lighters to proceed independently from N to make Mersa Matruh before dark.
(S.O. Force I. 1845B/8.)

M/V SURCOUF. Your 1502/29/11. SURCOUF. Seize ship and cargo. See Colonial Office telegram 599 to Governor.
(D.E.W.D. 1854A/8 to C.C.S.O. Aden.)

15th C.S. C. in C. Med's 1658B/8 (N.T.in W.D.) Intend to pass through 033° 15' N. 026° 00' E. at 1900/9 thence to patrol on line 000° from Derna from 0400/10, closest Derna at daylight thence searching to northwards till 0900/10. 201 Group is requested to arrange R/C at daylight/10 vicinity of Tas El Hilal (022° 10' E) thence northwards 60 miles.
(R.A. 15 C.S., 1923/8 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

TRUSTY. Following force may be encountered tomorrow 9th; one cruiser and 2 destroyers leaving mooring buoy at 0610B and proceeding N.W. 2 destroyers and 1 escort vessel due Alexandria early a.m. from westward and 1 Schooner also from westward due a.m. all on inshore route. Following area is available if you wish to dive before entering harbour: between line joining position 277 range - setting 21.5, 267 range setting 26.2, 276 range setting 15.5, 262 range setting 19.5. Do not overtake mine sweepers (?met) in searched channel. (Capt. S.1, 2041B/8 to TRUSTY.)

TALISMAN, attack on destroyer. One unidentified destroyer P.C. and S. 038° 00' N. 020° 28' E. 155° 15 (? upwards.) Engaged (? with) gun 4 hits. 3 torpedoes passed under. Weather.
(TALISMAN 2155B/8 to Capt. S.1.)

TRIUMPH TORBAY. Eastern Med. S/M movements summary 64.

	Estimated noon position 9/12.	Estimated noon position 10/12.
TRIUMPH	033° 56' N. 025° 26' E.	033° 10' N. 028° 02' E.
TORBAY	Alex Sanctuary	033° 30' N. 028° 38' E.

(Capt. S.1, 2241B/8 to Med. Fleet.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EMERALD. Left Mombasa 0850 G.M.T./8. (N.O.I.C. E. Africa 0854Z/8).

DAUNTLESS. DAUNTLESS arrived. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0915Z/8 to Admty. etc.)

Shipping. My 2156/7. Only ships proceeding to area 4 need call Colombo for orders. (2) All other shipping in Indian Ocean west of longitude Colombo should proceed as normal. (3) Special routeing instructions for ships proceeding port in Bay of Bengal are being issued shortly. (C. in C. E.I., 10482/8 to E.I. Stn.)

REWAK interception. Your 0714A/21/9. Complaint from French of treatment of officers landed at Obok. Request report. (Hd. of M., 1504A/8 to C. in C. E.I.) See Lion Copy.

GLASGOW. Report of U/B. (GLASGOW 1831Z/8) See U-boat Campaign.

Routeing of shipping. For N.C.S.O.'s (1) Independent sailing to or from Port Ominato East Coast India and Coast Burma as far as Rangoon traffic continues.
(11) Ships are to be routed within approx. 50 miles of East Coasts of Ceylon and India when South of lat. 017° N.
(111) Ships west of longitude of Colombo and bound for area 4 are to call at Colombo for orders.
(1V) Adjacent stations informed.
(C. in C. E.I. 2116Z/8 to E.I. Station. Repeated F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. Eastern Fleet, C. in C. China, N.O.I.C. Rangoon.
My 2116/8 is being passed to you request adjacent station will conform. (C. in C.E.I. 2118Z/8 to Adty., S.N.O. Red Sea, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.L.O Durban, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A, N.O. Wellington, A.C.N.B. D.N.O. W. Australia.)

PROTECTOR. N.O.I.C. Aden 0802Z/3 and C. in C. Med. 1136B/6 neither to F.O.C.R.I.N. PROTECTOR should be towed to Bombay. 2. F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to arrange survey, of hull and machinery on arrival and to report to Admty. by signal. (A.C.N.S. (F) 2330A/8 to N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.C. R.I.N.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Agreement with U.S. Fleet.

Cancel Adm. 2336/7, as report has now been received through Opnav. (1st S.L. 0114A/8 to C. in C. E.F.)

Enemy Force, Kota Bharu, PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE to attack.

(1) (?Provided that) as I hope I can make 4 destroyers available intended to proceed with PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE dusk tonight 8/12 to attack enemy force off Kota Bharu daylight Wednesday 10th. (2) Endeavours will be made to estimate strength of enemy naval forcesby air R/C, but large proportion of aircraft are naturally required for attack. (C. in C. E.F. 0204Z/8 to Admty.)

Refits and Dispositions.

My 0204Z/8.
1. All water in South China Sea is readily minable and need for more T.S.D.S. destroyers is urgent. JUPITER has been a notorious crock for some months and is liable to stop suddenly at any moment. I am putting her in hand for re-riveting oil tank, time required about 3 weeks. ENCOUNTER has had to be docked for renewal of stern bush(es) but will be completed 11/12.
2. I have ordered 2 S class destroyers from Hong Kong to Manila if possible for them to sail.
3. I have ordered EXETER to Singapore and N.B. Wellington have been asked to send ACHILLES to Singapore.
4. MAURITIUS refit is being hastened as much as possible.
5. Request HOBART be ordered East, question of her destination is being discussed with N.B. Melbourne.
6. Need for further modern cruisers is great.
7. Request reply to my 1015/3 re ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (C. in C. E.F., 0251Z/8 to Admty.)

Singapore Raid.

My 2030/7, 2054 intended. No damage H.M. ships or Naval establishments. (C. in C. E.F. 0254Z/8 to Admty.)

Duties.

C. in C. China 2155Z/7 and my 0403Z.
The following duties, previously carried out by C. in C. China are to devolve on Cdre. Malaya forthwith.
(A) Local defence (? of) (? Singapore) and Malaya in collaboration with military and R.A.F. (B). Reinforcements and local escort on coast of Malaya (C) organization of convoys and (? local escorts) in China station including the direction of such ships employed as ocean escort as have been allocated to this duty by C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (D) Administration of advanced or temporary bases in the Far East area. (E) (? Drafting) in the Far East (? area). (C. in C. E.F. 0404Z/8)

/Kota.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Kota Bharu landing.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Landing is being attempted at Kota Bharu. (C. in C. F.E., 0500/8 to W.O. etc.) (Recd. from W.O., 0310/8).

Cruiser Escorts for Shipping.

After recent discussions with C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Australian and New Zealand Naval authorities a redistribution of Aust. and N.Z. cruisers has been proposed in an endeavour to collect cruisers for operation with British Battle Fleet and as a striking force along Malay Barrier.
2. This will leave insufficient escort for following:-
(a) Trans-Pacific shipping between N.Z. and Panama.
(b) Air trainees in Matson liners from Auckland to San Francisco.
(c) Shipping between Torres Strait and U.S.A.
3. As majority of this shipping passes through the Pacific area as defined in A.B.C. 1, of which portions have now been classified as danger areas, it would be very much appreciated if any assistance could be given for escorting this shipping. I should be grateful if you would communicate your intentions in this matter direct to A.C.N.B. (C. in C. E.F. 0505Z/8 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet).

Hong Kong Raid.

First Air Raid in progress.
(Com., Hong Kong, 0810HI/8 to C. in C. China).

Situation Report.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from C's in C. F.E. and E.F. Far Eastern situation report 0930 hours local time 8/12.
1. Malaya. Landing occurred from about five Japanese ships between Kelantan River and Sabak shortly after 0130 hours 8/12. Later Force of ten Merchant Ships was seen some ten miles to the south. Considerable fighting took place north of Kota Bharu Aerodrome. By 0800 hours all surface craft retiring course 330. Mopping up operations in progress on shore. Air attacks at night claim hits on two ships which were left on fire. Attacks by Vildebeeste Torpedo Aircraft and Blenheims have also been made, results not yet known. Two Hudsons and one Catalina so far reported missing from operations. Gong Kedak and Machang Aerodromes in Kelantan bombed this morning. No damage reported. Machang unoccupied. Light scale air raid on Singapore Island at 0415 hours 8/12 concentrated mainly on Seletar and Tengah Aerodromes. No appreciable damage reported 2. Hong Kong. Report 0900/8 local time, 4 out of 5 Frontier demolitions blown, fifth ready at 1000 hours, no move across Frontier by enemy yet. Air Raid Kowloon 0800 hours. Both Walrus and one Vildebeeste out of action.

/3.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Situation Report - Contd.

3. No news from Thailand. R/C to northward including Singora left 0730 local time has reported landings at Patani and was attacked by six fighters at Singora. Further R/C at Singora area being made by Buffaloes. (C. in C. F.E., 1540/8 to W.O.)

Catalinas for Singapore.

Four Catalinas are to be despatched to Singapore as soon as possible. Onward route from Egypt to be arranged by Middle East and India. (Air Ministry 1945/8 to Coastal Command).

Hong Kong Air Raids.

Am proclaiming state of war with Japan and bringing into operation Order in Council 9/3/1939. Japanese aircraft dropped some bombs on barracks in Kowloon 9 a.m. local time today causing casualties, none fatal. About 10 Canadian soldiers injured, one seriously. Also made dive-bombing attack on Kai-Tak aerodrome destroying on the ground three military eight civilian aircraft. (Govr. Hong Kong. No. 1463 no T.O.O., Recd. in War Reg. at 2335/8).
Japanese forces crossed land frontier into New Territories this morning. Demolition successfully carried out as arranged and withdrawal effected in accordance with plan. Second air raid carried out by the enemy this afternoon. Enemy planes unsuccessfully attacked shore batteries and naval units. No casualties reported. Morning casualties now reported, civilians 28 killed and 80 admitted to hospital; military 1 killed 10 wounded. All casualties on Kowloon side. (Govr. Hong Kong, No. 1464, no T.O.O. Recd. in War Reg. at 2340/8).

Singapore, Air Raid, Japanese Fishing Vessels seized.

No. 608. On receipt of information that Japanese were attacking Kota Bharu I issued instructions for seizure of fishing vessels Singapore and for general internment of Japanese. Former completed with entire success, latter proceeding satisfactorily. Air raid on Singapore City 4.15 a.m. not heavy, some casualties and damage but none to Government buildings or harbour. Behaviour of population exemplary. (Govr. Straits Settlements, No T.O.O./8).
No. 609. In last night's air raid Singapore City, 61 fatal casualties, 133 injured taken to hospital. All Asiatic, mostly Chinese, few Indians. Bombs all dropped at random among civil population. (Govr., Straits Settlements No T.O.O./8 to S. of S. for Colonies).

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Attacks on Malaya and Thailand.

Report up to 1530 hours shows 15 ships used so far in landing Singora Patani and K.B. 10 others sighted but no disembarkation yet reported from these. 25 reported to be arriving off Nakawn Sri Tamarat. This accounts for whole force observed 6/12. Possible enemy employing one division for landings Singora and Southward if so small reserve of this formation still available. Bangkok broadcast report fighting earlier 8/12 Battambang Area. Government has now ordered (?temporary) cease fire. Indicate Thai Government still in existence no mention yet Coup d'Etat. Our estimate of initial scale attack on Hong Kong one division maximum with troops now in area 2 division. Action Japanese attacking us and U.S.A. simultaneously indicates they have decided to accept risk of national suicide rather than submit to slow strangulation. Action obviously advantageous to Germany and no need at present to look further than this from German point of view. (D.D.M.I. F.E. 2226/8)

America and West Indies.

Passages from Bermuda.

Your 10520/6/8. Allied vessels not on charter to M. of W.T. should not be diverted to Bermuda for this purpose unless very exceptional circumstances demand it. (D.T.D. 0023A/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ALCANTARA.

C. in C. S.A.'s 1240/7 E.T.A. 1000 G.M.T./10 Request 1500 tons of oil fuel. (ALCANTARA 0031Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad);

Shipping movements.

Ref. Adty. 0112A/9. Following has been made to G.B.M.S. 7 begins "Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are North of Latitude of Bermuda proceed to Bermuda for re-routeing. Ships bound for Australia and New Zealand who are South of latitude of Bermuda proceed to Colon and await instructions. T.O.O. 0022Q/9 ends. (C. in C. A.W.I. 0032Q/8 to Adty., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q.)
All Allied Vessels in this Area are remaining in Port on instructions from U.S. Naval Authorities. (N.C.S.O. Seattle, 0102Z/8 to Admty.)

/After.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping movements - Contd.

After consultation with M. of W.T. following has been sent to C.S.A's and N.C.S.O's West Coast U.S.A. and Canada (begins) British and Allied ships may be sailed on Coastal voyages between San Pedro and Vancouver inclusive but not Trans Pacific or between San Pedro and Panama until further orders. (Ends). (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1406Z/8 to Admty.)
Your 0023Q/8. Instructions to this effect were issued in my 1749Q/29/10. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1632Q/8 to Adty.)
My 1406Z/8. U.S. Authorities have stopped all coastal movements north of Panama. Consular shipping advisers have been instructed that movements of British and Allied shipping on West Coast U.S.A. is to cease. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2043Z/8 to Admty.)
My 1805/7 para. 1 now modified trans Pacific only. (Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama 1135Z/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
N.S.H.Q. 1406Z/8 and 2043Z/8 not to all Addressees. In view of urgent need to maintain flow of traffic propose (a) Trans Pacific shipping should continue to sail being routed to New Zealand for onward instructions. (b) Coastal traffic on west coast of America should not be suspended. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1912Q/8 to Adty.)
Reply to No. 83/41 dated 30/10/41 re routeing and protection of shipping in the Pacific. (D.T.D. 2326A/8 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

Navigation Lights.

British and Allied Merchant Ships in Areas 4, 5, 8 and 10 have been instructed not to burn navigation lights but that dimmed navigation lights may be shown in Coastal waters. (D.T.D. 0105A/8 to B.A.D.)
Ships in Area 10 are not to show navigation lights. In coastal waters dimmed navigation lights may be shown. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1002Q/8 to S. & A.)

Cinclant warning.

Following from Cinclant and is addressed to Batdivcomslant, Comdeslant, Crudivcomslant, all Taskforcecoms. Info addresses are Opnav, Comtaskgroups 6.2, 6.3. Cincpa has reported a Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbour. Secnav has ordered execution of WPL 8 against the Japs. An early move by Axis raiders and submarines in great strength for maximum effort against convoys and covering forces is expected soon. Be alert for action appropriate to any situation that may arise. (Spenavo, London, 0336/8 to Admty.)

/U.S.N.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U.S.N. Dispositions.

Your 2029R/7.
A. Please tell C.N.O. how very sorry we all are to hear his bad news. We of course agree to any re-adjustments that he considers essential as we know that he fully appreciates our difficulties and the vital importance of the Battle of the Atlantic.
B. This redistribution of forces will of course affect our ability to reinforce the Eastern Fleet and we will inform C.N.O. regarding this as soon as we have had time to consider the matter.
(1st, S.L., 1205A/8 to B.A.D.)

MACBETH (adrift)

Sailed Rescue Tug PRUDENCE 1200Z/8 to return to S.S. MACBETH and proceed towards Clyde pending arrival of Dutch Rescue Tug ZWARTE ZEE.
(C.C.N.F., 1300Z/8 to Admty.)

DESPATCH. DIOMEDE. BISHOPDALE.

DESPATCH leave Bermuda p.m./9 and proceed Kingston, Jamaica to await further orders.
(II) On arrival Balboa 10/12 DIOMEDE is to complete with fuel and await further orders. She is not to transit canal.
(III) N.O.I.C. Trinidad is requested to sail Oiler BISHOPDALE after loading to Kingston Jamaica to await further orders.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1312Q/8 to S.O. West Indies Force, DIOMEDE, Admiralty, B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica, N.O.I.C. Bermuda, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

DIOMEDE.

My 1312Q/8th. Request you will arrange to complete DIOMEDE with fuel at Balboa.
(ii) Presume in view of U.S. and British declaration of war upon Japan, restrictions on use of Balboa by H.M. Ships as regards fuelling and length of stay no longer hold. Notification of arrival will of course be given. Request confirmation.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1322Q/8 to B.A.D. Washington.)
My 2235Z/22/11. 3 burst fire row boiler tubes have occurred since leaving Bermuda. Inspection shows between 400 and 600 distributed (? amongst) all boilers require very early renewal. In anticipation of this being taken in hand on arrival intend completing with fuel Balboa and propose proceeding direct from Colon to Bermuda at 18 knots arriving p.m./15.
(DIOMEDE, 2301Z/8 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/O.N.37....

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 8.12.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N.37. Following from Commodore Denison. Fully concur Commodore Rowley Conwy's remarks in 1433Z/1/12. Convoy O.N.37 scattered in 30° W. in gale owing to want of ballast causing ships to be completely unmanageable.
(C.O.A.C., 1552Z/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

U.S. M/V's. Since submarines in S. Atlantic appear to be moving northward U.S. Navy Dept. would prefer their merchant ships to resume calling at Capetown instead of Durban. Can this course be recommended?
(B.A.D., 16(?9 or 0)5R/8 to Admty.)

O.N.44. Unit 4.1.13 composed RESTIGOUCHE (S.O.), BITTERSWEET, AMHERST, CHICOUTINI, ORILLA, AGASSIZ designated escort.
(Opnav, 1625Z/8 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE. NEWCASTLE expected to leave Boston p.m./12 proceeding Norfolk for deperming and D.G. trials, leaving Norfolk 17/12. Ship has been directed to (? leave) 17/12 if possible, informing C. in C. A. & W.I. Request C. in C. A. & W.I. will issue route orders in accordance with A.M. 2124/22/10. NEWCASTLE is to inform C. in C. A. & W.I. direct.
(B.A.R.M., 1700R/8.)

H.X.164. Unit 4.1.1, composition DALLAS (S.O.), ELLIS, GLEAVES, EBERLE, INGHAM, UPSHUR designated escort.
(Opnav, 1701Z/8 to Admty.)

Unknown signals. KAMSACK ex local escort S.C.58 returned Sydney in company with THUNDER and SHAWINIGAN and reports intercepting underwater (? group omitted - signals) which were of low audio frequency in 045° 35'30" N. 053° 52'00" W. at 0730Z/5. Signal lost and not intercepted by other escort. Returning at 2015Z/6 KAMSACK again intercepted signal in 045° 38' N. 055° 08' W. identified as VE. VE. VE. ANR. SGER. and other lost groups. Escort in company advised of signal and bearing but not intercepted. KAMSACK frequency "B", THUNDER frequency "A", SHAWINIGAN frequency "F".
(N.O.i/c. Sydney, C.B., 1801Z/8.)

/WINDFLOWER ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

WINDFLOWER sunk.

H.M.S. WINDFLOWER escorting S.C.58 sunk by collision in fog with S.S. ZYPENBERG at 1250Z/7 in 046° 19' N. 049° 30' W. Shortly after this NASTURTIUM heavily damaged when hailing the wreck. S.S. ZYPENBERG with 47 survivors on board of whom 3 had died after the rescue arrived St. Johns N.F. 1100Z/8th accompanied by NASTURTIUM and escorted by PICTOU. NASTURTIUM has extensive damage of superficial nature including many engineering fittings and castings fractured. No hull damage below water. ZYPENBERG hull damaged forward. Total unaccounted for from WINDFLOWER 20 including all officers except First Lieut.
PICTOU has sailed to overtake S.C.58.
(C.C.N.F., 1859Z/8.)

BRAZIL. (U.S.)

Left New York 6/12 due Barbados 10/12 thence Rio de Janeiro 17th. Re Japanese passengers.
(N.C.S.O. New York, 2000Z/8 to Admty.)

ZYPENBERG.

Netherlands ship ZYPENBERG (? returned from) S.C.58 damaged by collision.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 2035Z/8.)

ODDVAR II.

Your 1008A/10. Following is a repetition of N.S.H.Q. 2131Z/8 (begins): C.C.N.F. Repeated C.O.A.C. 478 from N.S.H.Q. Admiralty 1727A/1. Have any steps been taken to detain Finnish ODDVAR II under guard? 2131Z/8. (Ends).
(C.C.N.F., 1420Z/11 to Admty.)

S.S. ELIN K, VILLANGER.

Request confirmation arrival Norwegian ELIN K. at Durban and Norwegian VILLANGER at Lourenco Marques.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2212Z/8 to Admty.)
Reply: 1508/10.

Australia and New Zealand.

Ocean Island bombed.

No. 334. Four-engined flying boat circled Ocean Island commencing 10.50 a.m. local time today and dropped bombs 11.20 a.m. No further information yet received.
(High Commissioner, No T.O.O./8 to S. of S. for Colonies.)

/ACHILLES ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

ACHILLES. Departure ACHILLES Singapore, due Port Moresby 0830/11.
(N.Z.N.B., 0830Z/8.)
To return to Auckland, see 0347/12.

PORT CAMPBELL. Have you any news of PORT CAMPBELL due Auckland 1/12 from Panama?
(D.T.D., 1505A/8 to D.N.I. Wellington.)
Reply: 1150M/9.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

General.

In view of U-boat activity in Mediterranean, following summary of experience in Battle of Atlantic may be helpful.
(A.C.N.S(F) 1219A/8 to C. in C. Med.)
See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.

0013Z. D/F bearings at ?0013Z/8, indicated U-boat within 100 miles (6°?) S., 17° W., 65% reliable.
(C. in C.S.A., 1009Z/8, to S.A.Stn.)

1145. PPP 1 S/M-350-3-360-272 ST 830 (272-T-30)?
(A/C J, 202 Sq., 1145/8, to F.O.C.N.A.)

0714 (Med.) U-boat in position 033° (? 58' or 17') N., 021° 51' E., at 0714/8 course unknown.
(C. in C. Med., 1245B/8, to Med. Fleet.)

1310 (Med.) P.C. and S., of one enemy submarine 34.06 N., 23.05 E., 050° 8 knots.
(A/C Z.1. 203 Sqdn., 1310/8 to 201 Group, C. in C. Med., 1504/8 to Med. Fleet.)

1125. A.736 8/12. Opsum.
(2) Catalina A/S Patrol 0840 to 1230 W., as far as 37° N., 10° West. U-Boat sighted at 1125, 37° N., 0930' W. At 1230 A/C was diverted to search for suspected enemy convoy off Cape de Gata and was waterborne at 1735.
(3) F.A.A. Swordfish 0630-0930 investigated suspected boat contact in Gibraltar Straits.
(4) F.A.A. Swordfish 1000 to 1200 to investigate U-boat contact in Gibraltar Straits, operations considerably curtailed by adverse weather.
(200 Group, 1715/8.) Ministry 0324/9.

1000. Following received (begins) S/M, not Portuguese, sighted about 112 miles off Portinho between Setubal and Cape Espichel at 1000/8 (ends). Take ALOUETTE under your orders and carry out A/S sweep in vicinity.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1740A/8, to LOCH OSKAIG, ALOUETTE.)

Laccadives. One S/M bearing 085°, 3 miles approx., true course 160° position 041 A.M.X.G.30 obtained from a fix within half an hour of 1300.
(GLASGOW, 1831Z/8, to All Stations taking part in Group N.)

/1732Z.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

8.12.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1732Z. D/F bearings indicate that Convoy O.N.43 was still being shadowed by U-boat at 1732Z/8. (D.D.I.C. 1912A/8 to Escorts of Convoy O.N.43, Escorts of Convoy H.X.162.

Submarines Attacked.

Off Gibraltar. A/S Operations 7th/8th December.
At 2004/7th U-boat was detected by R.D.F. from destroyers in 035° 57' N., 007° 56' W. U-boat sighted crash dived. HESPERUS attacked and reports having seen men in water afterwards possibly washed off when diving. Full report on return of ship.
(ii) At 0501/8th in 136° Europa Point Lighthouse 17 miles after R.D.F. contact LAFOREY sighted U-boat which crash dived and was attacked. Contact subsequently lost.
(iii) At 1145/8th Catalina sighted U-boat in 272° Cape St. Vincent 30 miles. No attack.
(iv) Lisbon reported submarine not Portuguese threequarters awash near Setubal at 1030/8th, LOCH OSKAIG and ALOUETTE searching.
(v) Weather bad, fresh westerly gale.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2250A/8, to Adty(R) C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

All merchant ships about to sail from the U.K. to ports in Australia and New Zealand and vice versa are to be routed via the Cape until further orders.

The flag of V.A.2. was transferred to RENOWN at 1400 today and that of R.A.(M) to SOUTHERN PRINCE at 0800.

There is a shortage of A/S craft for the protection of the Clyde approaches. This is accepted until A/S craft become available.

DUKE OF YORK left Scapa at 1600 today for the Clyde.

One eastbound destroyer, possibly with a convoy, was located by D/F at 1444C in about 71° N. 28° E. (off Magero) SEALION and SEAWOLF were informed.

Soviet S/M K.3. reports having sunk on 3/12 near Alten Fiord a 5000 ton merchant ship and an armed trawler and one of the two large motor boats, which were escorting.

British Air Operations.

Hudsons of Coastal Command today carried out successful attacks against enemy shipping off Aalesund and Den Helder, four ships being hit or set on fire.

Mining.

East Coast mining.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night is suspected in the Tyneside and Humber areas. Today 7 Magnetic and 1 Acoustic mines ~~were~~ were detonated off Yarmouth and 6 Magnetic mines off the Humber.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

A.B.V. ALOUETTE intercepted the Vichy French S.S. FORMIGNY off Lisbon today, and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic.

Uruguay last night issued a Decree the practical result of which is that she is at war with Japan. This will have certain consequences in regard to the use of her ports by non-American Allies of U.S.A.

C. in C. S.A. points out that the operational strength of G.R. Squadrons in West Africa is seriously reduced by 6 Sunderlands being in U.K. for overhaul and he asks that the question of expediting overhauls may be taken up with Coastal Command.

U-boats with survivors of the enemy ship sunk by DORSETSHIRE appear to be making to the northward either to R/V with a supply ship coming from the north or to land at Ascension, which latter they might reach by 11/12. In view of the weakness of the garrison of Ascension C. in C. S.A. is sending BRILLIANT and 2 corvettes to Ascension DEVONSHIRE and CANTON to search to northward and westward from 10/12 and QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX sail p.m. today with troops from Freetown to support the garrison if required.

R.A.S.A.D. today gave orders that all Finnish ships except those bound for U.S. ports are to be intercepted.

It is reported that a submarine was sighted off Ascension this afternoon and dived after being fired on from shore.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

P.34 reports that at 1328B/5 in 37° 56' N. 15° 39' E. she fired 3 torpedoes at a westbound half laden merchant ship in an escorted convoy of 2 ships and obtained one hit. The result was not observed, but on surfacing half an hour later after depth charge counter attack nothing was in sight.

It is reported that JERVIS was unsuccessfully attacked today 25 miles north of Bing el Arab (Egypt).

China.

The remaining battleships of the Eastern Fleet are to join as follows: ROYAL SOVEREIGN is to bring W.S.12Z as far as the Seychelles. RAMILLIES is bringing out W.S.14 (a large convoy of 32 ships); weather conditions at Scapa have prevented her completing her work up. RESOLUTION is working up now and will escort W.S.15 leaving on 7/1.

Hong Kong.

There were a few air raids on Hong Kong today. One A.P. vessel was slightly damaged by a near miss.
There was no enemy activity from seaward today.

Malaya and Siam.

Aircraft sighted today one battleship, 2 or 3 cruisers, 7 or 11 destroyers and a number of transports off Kota Bharu, a transport off Kuantan and 15 transports and an aircraft carrier off Singora.

There are now three areas of land operations: Kelantan; immediately north of Kedah; and N.E. of Krah. The two latter are in South Thailand. Further landings took place at Badang.

The enemy have had considerable success in air attacks on our northern aerodromes, with the result that our air and military operations are impeded. Kota Bharu aerodrome was demolished by this morning. Alor Star and Sungei Patani aerodromes have been evacuated; the latter was rendered unserviceable by enemy bombing.

/Ocean.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

Ocean Island. The W/T Station at Ocean Island is still functioning. The island is reported to have been attacked by aircraft today.

Nauru. It is reported that 3 enemy aircraft bombed Nauru Island last night, damaging the wireless station, and that Japanese troops landed on the island today.

Philippines. It is unofficially stated that Japanese air forces raided Manila last night.

America and West Indies.

The Admiralty today gave orders for ships in the Atlantic now on passage to be re-routed. Ships in the Caribbean may proceed to Panama to await orders at the discretion of C. in C. A.W.I. Consequent on these instructions orders were issued yesterday by the C. in C. A.W.I. regarding the re-routeing of ships in the Atlantic*. The U.S. authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on the east coast of America. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa therefore proposes to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from Canadian and U.S. ports as far South as Jacksonville via the Cape. (The Admty. concurred in this proposal on 10/12). Representations have been made to the Navy Dept. advocating the resumption of flow of coastal trade northward of Panama.

The C.N.O. has information pointing to the likelihood of hostile raids and is of opinion that ships should not sail until the situation is clarified, but at 1307R today B.A.D. Washington reported that the U.S.C.N.O. agreed that all shipping except U.S. flag and U.S. own shipping should continue to be routed by British authority. However, at 1225 today the Consular Shipping Adviser at Panama reported that vessels bound for the west coast of South America only were being released, and that those for the west coast of North America were still held up, as well as Trans-Pacific vessels.

* (see 8/12)

/The.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies-Contd.

The presence of enemy aircraft in the San Francisco district indicates that a carrier is in the vicinity. The Pacific Task Forces have been disposed so as to endeavour to intercept.

Two units, one a carrier, are estimated by radio bearing to be operating 750 miles north of Pearl Harbour.

New Zealand.

The Japanese made successful landings on Taritari or Makin and Tarawa Islands in the Gilbert group at about 1645Z/today.

U-boat Campaign.

Vichy French S.S. SAINT DENIS reported at 1223 today being attacked by 2 S/M's in 39° 22' N. 3° 30' E.

Several attacks on enemy S/M's have been made near Oahu Sound..

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of V.A. 2.

Flag of V.A. 2 will be transferred to RENOWN at 1400 today.
(V.A. 2, 0859/9.)

Flag of R.A.M.

My Flag has been transferred to SOUTHERN PRINCE a.m. today.
(R.A.M., 0917A/9 to Admty.)

Clyde M/S Forces.

Propose to reinforce Clyde minesweeping forces with 1 Flotilla of 8 M.M.S. due to complete January to June 1942. These with drifters will cover Loch Ryan, Campbeltown and Clyde freeing trawlers for Oban and Port A. Suggest basing M.M.S. on Ardrossan if you consider suitable.
(D.M.S., 1537A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Soviet S/M Patrols.

Your 1821C/8. Acknowledged.
(SEALION, 0750C/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Russian help with Convoys.

Your 1820A/7. Of four STREMITELNI Class destroyers now based Dothan Inlet one usually refitting others employed for bombardment of small value enemy positionsnorth (? flank). C. in C. Northern Fleet might be willing to provide local destroyer escorts or cover for convoys proceeding to and from Murmansk if instructed through Soviet Admiralty.
2 URITSKI Class destroyers now Archangel if based Iokanskei during winter might be available for reinforcement of local escorts and anti-submarine patrols approaching White Sea.
SHTORM Class destroyers old and unsuitable to escort duties.
When transfer of S. American whaler to Soviet Government is completed, minesweeping in White Sea should become Russian responsibility but relisability of sweeping uncertain. Swept channel probably frozen after end of December. Only 2 minesweepers at present fitted with magnetic sweeps.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 21030/9 to Admty.)

KENT.

A.M. 2348/8. Ship also carries 5 tons of stores sent by War Office for 30 Military Mission. Please arrange onward despatch.
(D.O.D. H., 2157A/9 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of the U.K.

Clyde A/S Defences.

Your 1048A/5. No M.L. Flotilla available for proposed allocation from within the Command. Until A/S craft become available existing shortage of A/S protection of Clyde Approaches must be accepted.
(C. in C. W.A., 0947A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Movements.

MANXMAN.

Scapa departure MANXMAN for Milford Haven.
E.T.A. 0830/10.
(A.C.O.S., 0049A/9.)
My 1247A/8. MANXMAN is to take a cargo in following priority to Gibraltar:
(i) 800 depth charges.
(ii) 20 torpedoes.
(iii) Urgent stores for aircraft.
(iv) Passengers.
2. These stores and passengers are to be embarked at Milford Haven.
4. The stores are to be embarked by 1100/12.
(V.C.N.S., 1240A/9.)
Mines are to be disembarked on arrival at Milford Haven.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1245A/9 to MANXMAN.)

ARETHUSA.

Scapa departure ARETHUSA.
(A.C.O.S., 0704A/9.)

RAMILLIES.

Arrived your 1716A/6.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1029A/9.)

ST. MARYS.

My 1614A/8. ST. MARYS sailed 1026A/9.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1040A/9.)

DUKE OF YORK.

Sail as requisite to comply with Admiralty's 0055A/9.
(C. in C. H.F., 1043A/9 to DUKE OF YORK.)
Scapa departure 1600 DUKE OF YORK for Clyde.
E.T.A. 1130A/10. At 1230 FAULKNOR, MATABELE, FORESIGHT in company.
(A.C.O.S., 1633A/9 and 1831/9.)

IMPULSIVE.
ORIBI.
INGLEFIELD.

Proceed to Scapa without relief forthwith.
(R.A.D. H.F., 1158A/9.)
ONSLOW, IMPULSIVE, and ORIBI sailed 1630.
E.T.A. Scapa 1100A/11.
(A.C.I.C., 1826N/9.

/TIGRIS ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements- Contd.

TIGRIS. My 1248A/9. Read "TIGRIS escorted to Scapa position 0800/10 off Barra Head." (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1746A/9.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. FORMIDABLE. Admiralty's 1957A/14/11 and 1252A/26/11, and 1456A/4.
5. R.A.(M) is requested to provide two destroyers to meet ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE south of Islay as arranged with C. in C. W.A. and to remain with the carriers during the flying on and off and then to escort ILLUSTRIOUS to Rosyth, calling at Scapa on route if so desired.
6. Ocean escorts detailed by C. in C. W.A. should remain with FORMIDABLE until she reaches Belfast.
(D.O.D. H., 1936A/9.)

P.39. My 1248. P.39 will remain at Holy Loch. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2016A/9.)

Operations.

Operation "Anklet". R.A.(D) requests adjustments to ammunition outfits of ARETHUSA, Destroyers, M/S and Corvettes alluded to A.M. 0019A/6 as follows.
2. These changes are approved subject to your concurrence.
(D.G.D., 1020A/9 to C. in C. H.F.)

Denmark Straits Patrol. SUFFOLK on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C., 1500N/9.)
Following cruiser movements are to take place:
(a) CUMBERLAND leaves Scapa p.m./10th for Hvalfjord.
(b) NORFOLK leaves Hvalfjord p.m./11th for patrol "White".
(c) SUFFOLK leaves patrol "White" a.m./12th for Hvalfjord. After refuelling returns to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F., 1636A/9.)

2 M/V's torpedoed. 1 Armed Trawler and 1 Motor-Boat sunk. (1) Soviet S/M K.3 on 3/12 vicinity 70° 48' N. 24° E. torpedoed 5000 tons westbound merchant vessel, escorted armed trawler and 2 large motor boats possibly R-Boats. After being depth-charged S/M surfaced and engaged escort by gun-fire, sinking trawler and one motor boat, and then dived.
(2) MOLODKI 171 torpedoed 3000 tons tanker westbound 70.30 N. 31 E. 5/12.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1601C/9.)

/SEALION ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

SEALION Patrol. Your 1204A/8. It is hoped this report may refer to action K.3 referred to in my 1601C/9. SEALION has been ordered to withdraw and report. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1603C/9 to F.O.S.) Leave Bear Haven to be clear zone Bear Haven by 2200C/11th and return by route previously ordered to R/V position R.1 at 1130C/13. Withdraw and acknowledge. Admiralty pass to SEALION on next H.S. Routine. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2201C/9 to SEALION.)

British Air Activity.

M/V's attacked off Lorient. S S S S Attacked 5 merchant vessels, 47° 34' N. 4.34 W., 360°, 6. Result unknown. (A/C. duty J., 0345/9 to 19 Group.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PHINEAS BEARD and MILFORD EARL sunk on 8/12. My 2130/8. MILFORD EARL sank at 1830/8. Details of casualties. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1224/9, 1225/9.)

Mining.

Operation "Tincture". Your 1357A/1 and 1627A/4. Vessel returned. Operations completed. Negative results. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0909/9.)

Thames Estuary. One magnetic mine detonated at 1851/8. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1136/9.)

Yarmouth. One red magnetic mine exploded by L L S in 52° 14' N. 01° 56'45" E. at 1259A/9. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1411A/9.) 5 red magnetic mines detonated by L L S in 52° 14'25" N. 01° 55' E. at one minute intervals between 1350 and 1354A/9. 1 acoustic mine detonated by S.A at 1408A/9 green, and 1 red magnetic mine detonated by L L at 1412A/9, both in 52° 14'05" N. 01° 55'24" E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1526A/9 and 1842A/9.)

Bristol Channel. Exploded red magnetic mine at 0942A/9 in 006° 3.5 miles from Watchet Pier Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1525A/9.)

/Off 58A buoy ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Off 58A Buoy. WALLACE reports sweeping one mine with her S.A Gear in position 194° one point six miles from 58A buoy at about 0600A today.
(C. in C. Nore, 1813A/9.)

Humber. Following five mines exploded today by LL Trawlers. Details.
(F.O. Humber, 1920A/9.)

S.N. Operations. Your 1037/24/11. Regret it is improbable that a destroyer will be available on 14/12.
(C. in C. H.F., 2258A/9 to R.A.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Magero. By D/F at 1444C/9. One destroyer eastbound vicinity 071° 08' N. 027° 40' E. May be with convoy.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1553C/9.)

DIEDENHAFEN. (German tanker). Left Oslo Fjord 4/12 for Bergen, Aalesund, and Trondhjem. Cargo 3,000 tons gasoline and 6,000 tons Solar oil. Graded B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1621/9.)
O.I.C. Comment: This movement was previously reported on 3/12.

Navigational.

Buoys. State of buoys North of Rosyth night of 8/9 December i.e. following recent gales. All correct except No.34 missing, No.33 Northern cut not seen but definitely extinguished. No.30 Light wrong characteristics and very irregular.
(CURACOA, 1038/9.)
Visibility of B.3 Buoy is reported still to be only about 3 cables. Request that it may be increased in accordance with my 2223A/20/11.
(C. in C. Nore, 1307A/9.)
No. 58A light-buoy withdrawn.
(Hydrog., 1743A/9.)

Casualties and Defects.

MARSDALE. Dome of 128 C has dropped off carrying away oscillator. E.T.A. Halifax 1300 G.M.T./10.
(MARSDALE, 0530Z/9.)

/LEVERNBANK ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LEVERNBANK (Grounded 6/12.) — Your 1717A/7. Salvage officer considers services of FREEBOOTER not now required, as LEVERNBANK can now use her engines. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0943A/9 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

ST. MARYS. — Cancel my 1614A/8 and 1040A/9. ST. MARYS returned to harbour, reports ship unseaworthy due to excessive panting. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1124A/9 and 1712/9.)

NEWMARKET. — Following received from NEWMARKET begins: Have serious leak in main condenser. Earliest possible time of sailing 1800. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1531A/9.)

LEWES. — A.M. 1808A/6/11. Ship's departure is delayed by defect. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1615/9.)

R.J. CULLEN (Lost propellor 2/12.) — R.J. CULLEN is to be towed to Rothesay Bay if possible. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1625A/9 to TENACITY.)

KENYA. — KENYA docked in No.2 Dock 9/12/41. (A.S. Rosyth, 1815/9.)

BROKE. — Regret failing condenser. Consider engines maximum endurance 2½ days. Returning Loch Ewe thence to H.X.163 unless otherwise ordered. (BROKE, 2300A/9.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14. — Sailed W.S.14. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0026A/9.) Intend to sail GURKHA at 1800/9 to join RAMILLIES in 195° Fastnet Rock 30 at 0900/10 thence to Gibraltar in accordance with A.M.'s 1647/1 and 0027A/26 and 1632/6. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1458/9.) C. in C. W.A., 1421A/1. Sailed R.A. 3rd B.S. in RAMILLIES with VOLUNTEER, VANQUISHER, WITCH. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1725A/9.) Sailed 1810 GURKHA. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1920/9.)

/ D.S. 18 ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

D.S. 18. ORBITA.

S.S. BANFORA having sustained damage in heavy weather cannot now be used for D.S.18.
2. ORBITA is required in lieu provided that arrangements can be made for transfer of personnel accommodated on board to BANFORA who is to be used as accommodation vessel during ORBITA's absence.
(D. of P., 0039A/9 to V.A.C.T.C., C.Q.2.)

M/V's for or from Australia.

All merchant ships about to sail from U.K. to ports in Australia and New Zealand and vice versa are to be routed via the Cape until further orders.
Such ships in the Atlantic now on passage should be re-routed. Ships in the Caribbean may proceed to Panama to await orders at the discretion of C. in C. A. & W.I.
(A.C.N.S. T., 0112A/9.)

O.S.14. HASTINGS.

C. in C. W.A. 0943A/6. HASTINGS is required for service with O.S.14 sailing 12th. Request earliest date she can arrive.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1032A/9 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
BRITISH HUSSAR is to be sailed to Loch Foyle not to Oban. Opportunity is to be taken by C.O's of 44th Escort Group to inspect the fuelling arrangements. Captain D. Londonderry is to sail BRITISH HUSSAR with Escort Vessel to R/V with O.S.14.
(C. in C. W.A., 1616A/9.)

B.B. Convoys.

My 1756A/8. Route is to be brought into force at 0900A/10.
(C. in C. W.A., 1035A/9.)

O.N.43.

My 1953A/6. Detach ROSTHERN and Iceland ships on reaching 18° W.
All U.K. escorts remain with O.N.43 until further orders. Report situation at noon and estimated 1200Z/10 P.C. and S.
(C. in C. W.A., 1116A/9.)

Routeing of Atlantic Convoys.

Your 0146/5. Navy Dept. have not concluded their own examination of problem and will not be ready for discussions for some days.
2. For the present C.N.O. agrees that all shipping (except U.S. flag and U.S. owned shipping) shall continue to be routed by British authorities as at present in accordance with A.M. 0001/1/5 as amended. C.N.O. will indicate to Admiralty and Ottawa any changes that he desires or recommends in routeing instructions covering areas of U.S. responsibility.
(B.A.D. Washington, 1147R/9 to Admty.)

/P.Q.6...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

P.Q.6. Ref. F.O. Telegram 130 Mossy 6/12. Request instructions to drain all get-at-able tanks in P.Q.6 may be sent to escort Cruiser to pass on to ships concerned.
(Ad. Miles, 1306D/9.)

C.T.8. Composed of BERGENSFJORD and CHRISTIAN HUYGENS carrying Military and Air Force personnel will be ready to leave U.K. for Halifax on 20/12.
2. Speed of slowest ship 16 knots.
3. BERGENSFJORD will sail from Clyde and CHRISTIAN HUYGENS will sail from Liverpool.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to detail two destroyers to provide through A/S escort to Halifax and to arrange sailing of ships to R/V as convenient.
(D.O.D. H., 1443A/9.)

Q.P.3. 6 ships escorted by MACBETH, HAMLET sailed Seidisfiord 0900N. E.T.A. Kirkwall A.M./13. Route.
(A.C.I.C., 1519N/9.)

Q.P.4. SPEEDY R/V HAZARD off Bolshoi Toleni Island 1200C/10 and proceed Cape Orlov to sweep channel during daylight 11th, subsequently reinforcing Q.P.4 at 1030C/12 and escort to 069° N. then returning Murmansk. S.B.N.O. Archangel signal estimated position Q.P.4 at 1030C/12.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1625C/9 to S.B.N.O. Archangel.)
Q.P.4 delayed.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1905C/9.)

Convoys U.R. and R.U. Admiralty's 2032A/7.
(1) Convoys to have separate code words.
(2) N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe to detail masters as Commodores for U.R. Convoys.
(3) C. in C. W.A. will route both convoys.
(4) No standard route or secret positions to be given.
(5) Speed of convoy depends on speed of slowest ship.
N.C.S.O. Loch Ewe to use his discretion as to keeping back or sailing independently any ship which would unduly delay convoy.
(6) Orders for stragglers returning to port of departure as for Ocean Convoys.
(C. in C. W.A., 1812A/9 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

/East ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

East Coast Convoys. Maximum Numberz of Ships.

With the delays arising from Winter weather, accumulation of shipping at Southend sometimes results in slow northbound convoys sailing from there with the maximum number of ships permitted by E.C.O.O. No.9 thus causing delay and uncertainty in movements of Shipping further north.
As the greatest risk is encountered between the Thames and Humber, it is suggested that a new maximum of 60 ships exclusive of fishing vessel should be permitted in convoys when north of the Humber no change being made in the maximum number permitted further south.
Fishing vessels accepted for convoy to be permitted in excess of these numbers.
Your remarks on this proposal are requested.
(A.C.N.S. T., 1928A/9 to C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore.)
Your 1928A/9/12. It is considered that the provisions of E.C.O.O. 9 paras. (IV) and (V) should remain and that an increase of the numbers in any particular Convoy should be decided by C. in C. Rosyth in conjunction with C. in C. Nore. The availability of additional escorts and weather conditions must be taken into consideration on each occasion.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 2209/9 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Destroyers for E. Med. — My 1820/8th (?1520/8 intended). Vessels returned. (F.O.C.N.A. 0856A/9.)

GERANIUM. — Cancel my 0024A/5. (F.O.C.N.A. 0901A/9.)

Movements. — My 2002/8. (N.T.in W.D.) sailed DEPTFORD, PENTSTEMON, CONVOLVULUS, VETCH, SAMPHIRE. (F.O.C.N.A. 0932A/9.)

JAY. — My 0014/3. JAY left Horta 1815/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 0942A/9.)

Escorts of O.G.77. — Leave convoy so as to R/V with LIGHTNING in 37°N.11° W.at 1000A/11. On rendezvousing ships are to proceed to Ponta Delgada to fuel a.m./13. (ii) If unable to comply owing to lack of fuel HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, return forthwith to Gibraltar at best speed reporting expected time of arrival when 100 miles clear of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102A/9 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, Repeated. Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.O. Force H. D.19, DEPTFORD, LIGHTNING, Escorts of O.G.77, ROBERTS.)

BADSWORTH BEAUFORT. — BADSWORTH and BEAUFORT E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 14/12 require 250 tons of oil each. (Capt. (D) Londonderry 1104A/9.)

Fuelling at Ponta Delgada. — Following from Ponta Delgada begins: ships should arrive between 1630 and 1800 G.M.T./10. Both (corrupt group) ships cannot fuel simultaneously. EREBUS and ROCKINGHAM should proceed to oiling berth and fuel during night ROBERTS anchoring in entrance harbour exchanging berth with EREBUS at daylight. FRITILLARY should remain outside 3 mile limit until ROCKINGHAM relieves her at daylight. T.O.O. 1140/6 ends. You are to arrange BRADFORD's fuelling.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1126A/9 to ROBERTS.)
My 1116A (1126A/9 intended). Ponta Delgada informed that your E.T.A. is 11/12.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1842A/9 to ? ROBERTS.)
Your 1842A/9. E.T.A. 1800/10/12.
(ROBERTS 2030Z/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/HIGHLANDER ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Fuelling at Ponta Delgada. contd.	HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER and LIGHTNING due Ponta Delgada a.m./13. Fuel required approx. 400 350 and 150 tons respectively. Request arrangements. (F.O.C.N.A., 1816A/9 to N.A. Lisbon.)
S.S. ST. GOTHARD. (Swiss)	ST. GOTHARD. Ref. C. in C. A. and W.I. 1080/20/ 11 request you will report her departure, and all such departures, from Gibraltar to C. in C. A. and W.I. repeating to Admiralty. (D.E.W.D. 1128A/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)
EUGENIO C. (Italian)	Departure, destination believed to be Nantes. (Bilbao 1212/9.)
Enemy Convoy.	Convoy 4 Merchant vessels one trawler JLER 35 10 N. 02 40 W. (A/C 202 Sqn. 1610/9 to Gibraltar W/T.)
SHEAF HOLME.	My 1719/8th. SHEAF HOLME returned to Horta 9th. Work completed. (R.O. Horta 1614/9.)
EXMOOR. BLANKNEY.	My 1616 EXMOOR, BLANKNEY rejoin Capt. (D) 19 and hunt enemy S/M. My 1603 refers. (F.O.C.N.A. 1623A/9 to EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, Capt. (D) 19. Repeated CAMPBELTOWN, WHITEHALL.)
3 U-Boats.	F.O.C.N.A. 1651A/9 see U-boat Campaign.
OLYMPUS Route.	One Destroyer on North and South Patrol 20 miles east of Rock, aircraft may co-operate. Comply strictly with my 0908A/7. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708A/9 to OLYMPUS.)
FORMIGNY intercepted.	Your 0722/9th (N.T.in W.R.) Ship being sent in with armed guard from ALOUETTE who is escorting and will signal E.T.A. Position 039° 12' N. 009° 26' W. Speed 8 knots. (LOCH OSKAIG 1715A/9.)
EUGENIO C. (Italian)	Departure 9th EUGENIO C. loaded with iron ore, left early morning, destination believed to be Nantes. (V.C., Bilbao 1749/9 to Admty.)

/FORMIGNY ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

FORMIGNY. Departure 9th, Oporto.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1804/9 to M. of W.T.)

South Atlantic.

Probable Attack on Ascension by Raider Survivors and U/Bs.

U-boats with survivors boats ex ship sunk by DORSETSHIRE appear to be making to the northward object either (A) to rendezvous with a supply ship coming from North or (B) to land survivors at Ascension. If survivors are armed, as is probable, an attack in Ascension supported by U-boats would be well in keeping with German form. They might reach Ascension on 11th.
2. In view of weakness of garrison and importance of island am taking following action:- (A) BRILLIANT and two corvettes to patrol to S.W. off Ascension from 11/12.
(B) CANTON to search to northward and westward from 10/12 to be joined by DEVONSHIRE a.m./12. Object interception of possible supply ship.
(C) As an extra precaution in case of a landing at Ascension, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX sail p.m./9 with troops from Freetown to arrive vicinity of island a.m./12 ready to support garrison if required. Request W.O. be informed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1247Z/9 to Admty.)
My 1748Z/7 . To guard against possibility that U-boats and survivors' boats may be making for Ascension where garrison is very weak the following dispositions are to be made in lieu of those in my 2011Z/7.
2. (a) BRILLIANT after fuelling proceed Ascension and patrol to south westwards of Island arriving as early a.m./11th as possible.
(b) Corvettes to join BRILLIANT in this vicinity p.m./11 and patrol as ordered by BRILLIANT.
(c) CANTON to search northern half of I.35.C. and arrive in position N, 007° 30' S. 017° 30' W. at 0900Z/12.
(d) DEVONSHIRE to sail from Freetown 2100/9 and R/V with CANTON at N, at 0900Z/12. Instructions will be signalled later for search by these ships. If survivors' boats are sighted, BRILLIANT and corvettes are to be directed to position.
(e) On completion of fuelling of corvettes, ECHODALE is to steer 090° until necessary to turn so as to arrive back at position K at 1200Z/13. ECHODALE is then to patrol arriving at K at 1200Z daily until further orders. R/V at K to be maintained by steering 300° from 1200 to 2000, 180° from 2000 to 0400 thence

/back ...

2

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Probable Attack on Ascension by Raider Survivors and U/Bs contd.

back to D. BRILLIANT instruct (? ECHODALE).
(f) QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX to sail from Freetown p.m./9 and proceed to arrive in position 0 006° 40' S. 013° 15' W. at 0900Z/12. These ships have troops on board (? in case) it is necessary to reinforce the garrison.
(C. in C. S.A. 1305Z/9 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON, BRILLIANT, CROCUS, ORCHIS, PRINCESS BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA.)
My 1305/9. Para 2 (a) Cancel and substitute: BRILLIANT proceed direct to Asuncion (?Ascension) to arrive before dark 10/12 and patrol until necessary to proceed to fuel from ECHODALE.
(C. in C. S.A. 1951Z/9.)

Finnish shipping.

Unless other instructions are received all Finnish ships except those bound for U.S. ports are to be intercepted and fact reported to C. in C. S.A. repeated Admty. and R.A.S.A.D.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1357Z/9 to S.A.D.)

Corvettes, refits.

Owing to shortage of escorts at Freetown due to transfer of corvettes to Cape area not possible to sail a corvette to U.K. for refit with S.L.95. Intend one shall sail with S.L.96. My 1141Z/9/10 refers.
(C. in C. S.A., 1421Z/9 to Admty.)

Fuelling at sea.

Your 1956A/26/8. Request any further information of this method of fuelling, with special reference to Cruisers.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1507Z/9 to Adty.)

G/R Aircraft.

Operational strength of G/R Squadrons in West Africa seriously reduced by number of aircraft in U.K. for overhaul. Six Sunderlands are there now. Grateful if Admty. will take up question of expediting overhauls with Coastal Command. A.O.C.W.O's A.1339 of 7/12 to Air Ministry refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 1529Z/9 to Admty.)

W. Africa Troop movement.

Required to remove 466 West African troops from Mombasa to West Africa. They can be ready to sail 10/12. 2. Request C. in C. S.A. remark on possibility of providing escort for LAFONIA to carry as many as possible of this personnel from Cape. P.S.T.O. Simonstown should report to all addressees date of readiness and capacity of this vessel. 3. P.S.T.O. Mombasa should arrange to provide passage to Cape accordingly, consulting C. in C. E.I. if escort is necessary. 4. Exact destination in West Africa will be signalled when known. (D.O.D.(F) 1536A/9 to C. in C. S.A. etc.) Reply:C. in C. S.A.1132/10. See also East Indies 1910/11.

/S/M ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

S/M off Ascension . Freetown 1719/9, O i/c Ascension 1737Z/9, 1929Z/9. See U-Boat Campaign.

Uruguay, Policy towards Japan. Following precis of H.M. Minister of Montevideo's telegram 319 to F.O. dated 9/12 (begins). M.F.A. whom I saw this morning referred to decree issued by Uruguayan Gov. last night and asked me following questions: (1) Will British Navy undertake defence South Atlantic? (2) If so, would it be possible to hold early discussions and arrange subsequent liaison between British Naval and Uruguayan Authorities? M.F.A. explained that practical consequence of last night's decree was that Uruguay was in state of war with Japan and that there could be no question of Uruguay giving facilities to Japanese Warships such as are provided for in neutrality legislation. Uruguay desires early reply so as to assist themselves in considering opening her Ports etc. to non-American Allies of U.S.A. (End). Following is extract Uruguayan decree issued last night (begins): After lengthy preamble Uruguay declares its solidarity with U.S. and decision not to regard latter as belligerent power and consequently not to apply any provision contrary to present decree especially those of The Hague Convention XIII 1907. (Ends).
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1751Z/9 to Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Commissioned at Simonstown September 1939 and last occasion of giving leave in U.K. was July/August 1940 when ship's company had 14 days. Ship is now proceeding Newport News for refit. Propose she be paid off and recommissioned towards end of refit subsequently working up at Bermuda.
(C. in C. S.A., 1839Z/9 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE. Arrival 0810/9 DEVONSHIRE.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1933Z/9 to Admty.)

Need for Petrol Ships. Your 1505/26. Additional ships can only be provided by taking small vessels engaged in important trade and specially fitting them. No ready fitted petrol ships can be spared. While we appreciate necessity for allowances set out in G.O.C. West Africa's T.N. 27307 of 18/11, it is not clear why round trips of 3 petrol ships already on station take between 5 and 8 weeks. In view of importance of need of petrol, cannot loading and discharging be given first priority and less important cargo only carried on these special ships when time permits?
(D.S.T., 2126A/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Pocket ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic -contd.

Pocket Battleship Report. Unconfirmed reports from Associated Press Buenos Aires state pocket battleship operating in South Atlantic. Possibly having been sighted off coast of Uruguay. No confirmation yet obtainable locally but investigation proceeding. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 2228Z/9 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

Libya. Military situation Reports. (C. in C. M.E., 0132/9 1810/9, 2345/9.) See Lion Copy.

UNBEATEN UPRIGHT. UNBEATEN proceed forthwith through 037° 17' 016° 08' and 037° (32'?) 017° 18' to establish patrol in vicinity of position 039° 42' 017° 58'.
UPRIGHT proceed forthwith through 037° 16' 015° 44' and 037° 22' 017° 20' to establish patrol in vicinity of position 039° 30' 017° 30'.
During this transfer submarines are not to be attacked.
(Capt. S. 10, 0413B/9 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.)

Enemy Destroyers. 3 Destroyers P.C. and S. 037° 42' 015° 49' 180° 18 knots.
(UNBEATEN 0544B/9 to Capt. S. 10.)

HOBART. Admty. 0050A/9 (Request to sail HOBART for Aden)
Intend HOBART to arrive Aden night of 12/13 Dec.
She has no aircraft or catapult on board.
(C. in C. Med., 1121B/9 to A.C.N.B., C. in C. E.I.)

KONDOURIOTIS. My 1525/7 being passed to N.O.I.C. Suez, N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, N.O.I.C. Massawa. Amend date of arrival Aden to 23/12. Intend KONDOURIOTIS should also arrive Massawa 19/12 and leave 21/12. N.O.I.C. Massawa is requested to arrange for KONDOURIOTIS to embark any ex Italian spare parts and naval stores which would be of use during her refit.
(C. in C. Med., 1131B/9.)

/UNIQUE ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

UNIQUE. Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in area F concentrating in vicinity of 037° 51' 015° 44'. Leave patrol at 1900B/11 through 037° 06' 016° 00' 035° 52' 015° 16' and proceed east of swept channel to arrive Malta 0730B/13th. (Capt. S. 10, 1239B/9 to UNIQUE.)

FARNDALE. Report your P.C. and S. Do not close Submarine Detector until visibility improves. (S.O. Force I. 1248B/9 to FARNDALE.)

INDUS HINDUSTAN. C. in C. East Indies 0708Z/8. Request you sail INDUS and HINDUSTAN for Ceylon as soon as possible. (C. in C. Med., 1255B/9 to S.N.O. Red Sea.) Sail INDUS and HINDUSTAN for Ceylon as soon as possible. (F.O. R.S. 2252B/9 to N.O.I.C. Aden.)

A/S protection of Aden. I should be glad of a (A) very early assessments from Admty. regarding the probable threat near Aden or in Red Sea from (a) S/Ms and (b) raiders. Owing to shortage of patrol vessels this problem particularly as regards an A/S defence of Aden is bound up with question of the (?blockade) of Jibuti. Latter cannot be maintained except at expense of A/S measures at Aden. (See also my 1255/9.) I should also be glad to know therefore (?the) relative importance attached to those 2 conflicting requirements. (iii) If S/M threat is not considered serious it will be possible to maintain a weakened blockade off Jibuti as I feel that in any case I must have some A/S ship at Aden in view of the number of ships which must now inevitably congregate there. (C. in C. Med., 1347B/9 to Adty.)

P.34, M/V hit. (1) P.34 reports at 1328B/5 in position 037° 56' 015° 39' fired 3 torpedoes at 4,000 tons Westbound half (laden) merchant ship in convoy with one other escorted by Generale Class I B one hit followed by ineffective (corrupt group) attack with 31 charges. (2) Result unobserved but nothing in sight half hour after attack. (3) In order to close within firing range P.34 ran for 15 minutes deep at full speed. On coming to periscope depth 2 U-boats were seen steering 130° at 1000 and 2,000 yards range but unfortunately far past attack position, so P.34 continued original target. Both U-boats were Italian, having 2 guns. (Capt. S. 10, 1459B/9 to Capt. S.1.)

/Trapani ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Trapani, Palermo.	Visual R/C today. (i) Trapani. 3 M/Vs 4000 to 6000 tons, 2 destroyers, 7 small escort ships. (ii) Palermo. 2 cruisers, 5 M/Vs, 4000 tons. One hospital ship. One large M/V down by the stern. (V.A. Malta, 1510B/9 to C. in C. Med.)
SAINT DENIS, U/B attack.	Following intercepted in French (begins). S.S. SAINT DENIS attacked by 2 submarines in 39-22 N. 3-30 E. 1223/9/12 (ends). (S.O.I. Gib., 1511A/9 to Admty.) See also U/B Campaign.
THRASHER PORPOISE.	THRASHER leave patrol forthwith and return to Alexandria pass through 36° 30 20° 54, 35° 00, 21° 44, 32° 52, 27° 28, thence direct. Adjust speed to pass through second position about noon/10th and arrive sanctuary 0600B/13. PORPOISE take over patrol in area Q/1 in addition to Q from 0001B/10th. (Capt. S.1, 1551B/9 to S/Ms named.)
Malta Raids.	2 alerts 2038 to 2215 hours and 2304 to 2339 hours for 2 enemy bombers; bombs land, no damage, A.A. fired, no operations strong wind across runway could not get off. Similarly at Hal Far 9th, 0835 hours, 1 recco A/C approached No interception. (H.Q. Malta, 1618/9.)
TORBAY PORPOISE.	TORBAY leaves vicinity Alexandria sanctuary about 1700B/9 and proceeds through 033° 30' 023° 38' 035° 28' 026° 26' to operate within 20 miles of north coast of Crete as far as 025° E. during 11th, thence through 036° 08' 025° 00' 036° 00' 022° 46' 036° ? 36' 021° 42' to establish patrol in area Q within 50 miles of Pylos Light, Navarin. Intend to recall PORPOISE to Alexandria leaving area Q p.m./13. (Capt. S.1, 1641B/9 to C. in C. Med.)
UNBEATEN UPRIGHT UTMOST.	My 0413B/9. Adjust patrol positions as follows: UNBEATEN 039° 40' 017° 52'. UPRIGHT 039° 27' 017° 24'. UTMOST leaves Malta 1800B/9th for patrol in vicinity 039° 33' 017° 39'. (Capt. S. 10, 1654B/9 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.) No northbound merchant ship of more than 2000 tons and less than 10,000 tons whether escorted or not is to be attacked by you from receipt of this message until noon 11/12 unless it is definitely identified as a tanker. (Capt. S. 10 1928B/9 to UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT)

/PROTEUS ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

PROTEUS. My P.C. and S. 034° 41' 023° 28' 117° 11.
In order to comply with your 1559/8 propose to proceed on the surface day 10th. Consider R.D.F. will give adequate warning of aircraft.
(PROTEUS 1730B/9 to Capt. S.1.)
Your 1730B/9th not approved. Adjust speed to arrive Alexandria Sanctuary 0530B/12th.
Estimated your noon position 10th 033° 46' 025° 38'.
(Capt. S.1, 2041B/9 to PROTEUS.)

S/Ms. Eastern Med. S/M movements summary 66 :-

Submarine	Estimated Noon Position 10/12.	Estimated Noon Position 11/12.
TRIUMPH	033° 10'. 028° 02'.	Due Alexandria a.m.
THRASHER	035° 00' 021° 44'	034° 00' 024° 30'
TORBAY	033° 30' 028° 38'	Close to N.E. of Crete.
PROTEUS	033° 20' 026° 40'	Due Alexandria A.M.

(Capt. S. 1, 1801B/9 to Med. Fleet.)

Movements. Departure 9/12 NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE, JAGUAR, KANDAHAR at 1830B. Fighter codeword "Siren".
(V.A. Malta 1851B/9 to C. in C. Med.)

TALISMAN PERSEUS. TALISMAN return to Alexandria through 037° 26' 020° 32' 035° 00' 020° 36' 032° 54' 027° 28' then direct. Leave patrol as necessary to pass through 2nd position about 1800B/12 arriving Sanctuary 0530B/16. PERSEUS is to take over patrol in area P in addition to P 1 from 0001B.
(Capt. S.1, 1941B/9 to S/Ms named amended 1125B/10.)

UTMOST URGE. UTMOST has sailed for patrol in vicinity of 39° 33' 17° 39' should arrive there by 0001B/12.
URGE sails 1400B/10 for area E and will be in vicinity of 37° 57' 15° 30' by dawn/11.
(Capt. S. 10, 2118B/9 to Capt. S.1.)

/P.C. and S. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

P.C. and S. of enemy (2 A/A CR) 010 37° N., 12° E. 43, 190°, 30 knots.
(Med A/C 2257B/9.)

My 2256 - P.C. and S. of enemy A/ACR - 015 37° N., 12° E., 25 - 190 - 24.
(Med A/C 2349B/9.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HECTOR. HECTOR (A.M.C.) sailed to R/V with R.F.A. CEDARDALE at outer end of searched channel N.O.I.C. Simonstown 16482/5 para. (ii) refers. E.T.A. Mauritius 0300Z/16. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0740Z/9).

DAUNTLESS. DAUNTLESS left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 0705Z/9 to Admty etc).

"Q" messages, and S/M reports. (1) Following Q distress messages have been received. (a) OZAZ INGE MARSK close S.W. of (?Ceylon) at 0328Z/8th. Cancelled and cleared (b) Jaladurga N.W. part of Bay of Bengal at 0902Z/8th. Cancellation considered genuine (c) unknown ship in (?Mozambique) channel at 1218Z/8th. Cancellation received correctly by CORNWALL considered genuine. (2) Following S/M reports received of which it is too early to gauge authenticity (a) periscope feather (?and) A/S contact by DIPAVATI off Goa at 1245Z/8th. Contact lost range 2 miles (b) 2 (?U-boats) reported by Greek destroyer AETOS Bay of Bengal 020° 10' N., 087° 30' E., at 2027Z/8th. No results depth charge attack (c) resemblance to submerged S/M proceeding northwestward reported by DUMFRIES 50 miles north east Madras at 1130Z/8th. Object 200 Yards on beam. (C. in C. E.I., 0752Z/9 to E.I. Station).

ROHNA. B.P. 27 ROHNA called in consequence of seek refuge signal, proceeded on her voyage to Basra at 1330 G.M.T. E.T.A. 0100Z/13. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 1403Z/9 to Admty).

Raiders. My 1925A/2. Q distress message W of Karachi on 28/11 satisfactorily cancelled. Therefore no evidence of Raider in Indian Ocean. (D.D.I.C., 1902A/9 to Cs. in C. etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Battleships for Eastern Fleet.

Your 0251Z/8.
A. Your para. 7 (your 1015/3 also refers) ROYAL SOVEREIGN arrives Durban with W.S.12 Z on 17/12. At the moment we do not know what scale of attack, the Japanese are likely to bring on to our convoy routes. From C. in C,. E.I. 0454Z/6 it appears that the only alternative escort that he can provide is EMERALD as far as Mombasa and then COLOMBO; this appears inadequate if there is any chance of a Japanese 8-inch cruiser being in the area. It would appear therefore that ROYAL SOVEREIGN should remain with W.S.12 Z at least as far as Seychelles.
B. ROYAL SOVEREIGN is more or less worked up but before joining you, she should do one further series of practice shoots, which presumably can be done at Trincomalee.
C. RAMILLIES is bringing out W.S.14 which is a large convoy of 32 ships. Weather conditions at Scapa prevented her completing her work up and she needs further shoots of all types.
D. RESOLUTION is working up now and will escort W.S. 15 leaving 7/1. She will have had 6 weeks working up.
E. Your para 1. We have now had to send Force "H" destroyers to Eastern Mediterranean to assist with our supply routes and to cut the enemy's. At least until the Cyrenaican situation is cleared up it will not be possible to send you any more British destroyers. As Americans are not now taking over Force H., so enabling us to send you 8 Destroyers, I am asking C.N.O. if the 6 American destroyers now escorting W.S.12 X. could join you as part of the additional reinforcements and in addition to the 8 they have already allocated to you.
F. Your para. 5. This will be done.
G. Your para. 6. It is regretted that no further cruisers can be sent to join Eastern Fleet. (1st S.L., 0051A/9 to C. in C. E.F.)

Thailand Invaded.

British forces have crossed Thailand frontier in two places 1400/8/12. Japan violated Thai neutrality first. (C. in C. F.E., 0247/9 to W.O.)

Military Situation.

W.O. 0600/9 to D.D.M.I. Singapore. See Lion Copy.

/Japanese....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Japanese Forces, Intelligence. From W/T Traffic. Saigon Area. Third Aircraft Carrier Squadron, C. in C. Southern Expeditionary Fleet, C. in C. Combined Air Force, one Seaplane Tender Squadron. Samá Area. C. in C. Combined Fleet, C. in C. Third Fleet, some unidentified auxiliaries and naval units. Hong Kong Area. Flagship C. in C. South China Fleet. Truk Area. Flagship of C. in C. Fourth Fleet. Aircraft concentrations in Formosa. Air W/T traffic generally heavy. Large volume of W/T traffic originating in Jaluit addressed to C.in C. Combined Fleet. From Aircraft Sighting. P.M.9/12 one Battleship, three Cruisers, 11 destroyers, and a number of transports reported close to coast between Kota Bharu and Perhentian Is. No details received. (C.S. Singapore, 1501Z/9 to Admty).

Night Fighters. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. F.E. No.53 Your 423/6 cipher 8/12. We regret impossible to provide two squadrons of night fighters in immediate future. There is not yet even one squadron in Middle East or Malta, and Malta has survived for 18 months without one in spite of continuous Italian and period of heavy German attacks from near bases.
2. All war experience shows uselessness and wastefulness of attempting to gain air superiority by bombing aerodromes at long range. Only effective form of attack is at short range particularly low flying attack by fighters.
3. We are doing everything possible to sustain your day fighter force and your short range bombers, and are also expediting A.A. reinforcements. (W.O. 1630/9 to C. in C. Far East).
No. F.E.54. Allotment of available resources between theatres is extremely difficult without information as to scale of attack being delivered against various objectives in your command and appreciation of probable Japanese plan as you see it. It would therefore be most helpful if you could keep us constantly supplied with positive or at least negative information. (Chiefs of Staff, 2355/9 to C. in C. Far East).

Situation Report. At 0900 local time. (C. in C. Far East, 1639/9 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

ODDVAR II — Your 2130Z/8. Following received from CTF4 (begins). Inform Newfoundland Authorities ODDVAR II is in custody of their Constabulary. I have directed vessel to secure to buoy ship harbour for security approaching gale. I will render such assistance as may be necessary 1427Z/8 (ends). Ship is in custody Newfoundland Govt., no further steps have been taken. (C.C.N.F., 0355Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOA. — My 1232Q/26/11. MOA now at Balboa reports Asdic defective. Grateful if arrangements could be made for U.S. Naval Authorities to examine and make good defect, and for MOA to remain at Balboa for boiler cleaning. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/9 to B.A.D.)

Japanese Fleet. — C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 0411Z/9 (Re whereabouts of Japanese Battleships and Carriers. N.T. in W.D.) Only information available is that 2 units, one a carrier, are estimated by radio bearing to be operating 750 miles 340° from Pearl Harbour. Presence of enemy aircraft San Francisco district indicates carrier in vicinity. Pacific Fleet Task Forces disposed so as to endeavour to intercept. Several attacks on enemy submarines delivered in vicinity of Oahu (Sound?) (B.A.D., 1115R/9 to Admty).

FIDRA Panamanian. — My 1551R/6. Ship arrived St. Thomas 8/12 detained pending instructions from Washington. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 1144R/9 to A.W.I. Station).

DIOMEDE. — Your 2301Z/8. (Burst boiler tubes on DIOMEDE) Your return must be deferred for a short while until situation is clearer. Comply with my 1312Q/8. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1202Q/9 to DIOMEDE). Your 1322/8. Fuelling arranged, see my 1459/26/11. Para (2) No restriction on Balboa. (B.A.D., 1555R/9 to DIOMEDE).

S.C.53. — MERIDIAN and CRUSADER still unaccounted for. Should be grateful if information could be obtained from escort of date of straggling and any other particulars known. (D.T.D., 1302A/9 to Opnav repeated C.C.N.F., etc) Reply from C.C.N.F., see 0351Z/10

/Martlets....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Martlets. Your 1604/5. Signal number of Martlets in each ship on sailing and whether they can be disembarked by air on arrival U.K., pilots being provided.
(D.N.A.D., 1339A/9 to B.A.R.M.) Reply 1440/13.

Shipping Control. Request confirmation that U.S. Authorities have assumed Control of British and Allied Shipping in the Pacific Area in accordance with A.B.C. on Annex. 5. 2. C. in C. A.W.I. 1912Q/8. Concur that it is desirable to maintain flow of traffic as soon as situation permits.
(V.C.N.S., 1343A/9 to B.A.D.)
Your 1343A/9 crossed my 1147R/9 (N.T. in W.D.) which has all addressees. For the present U.S. C.N.O. agrees that all shipping (except U.S. flag and U.S. own shipping) shall continue to be routed by British Authority as at present in accordance with A.M.0001/1/5 as amended. (ii) U.S.C.N.O. will indicate to Admty and Ottawa any change that he desires or recommends in routeing instructions covering areas of U.S. responsibilities. My 1147R/9 to Admty and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa only refers.
(B.A.D. 1307R/9 to Admty).
U.S. Authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on east coast. Propose therefore to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from Coast Canadian and U.S. Ports as far south as Jacksonville via the Cape.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1927Z/9 to Admty).

ALIAKMON. My 1829Z/7. (1827Z/7 intended) Greek ALIAKMON, no information of arrival this side.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1442Z/9 to Admty).

INDOMITABLE. Your 2212Q/7. Propose to sail 1630/12 arrive Port of Spain p.m./15. Desired to exercise a night attack with aerodrome and oil refinery as objective. If approved attack would be carried out after 0001/ 15 and INDOMITABLE would then carry out programme B of R.N.A.S. Piarce Trinidad T 41/1 of 4/11. Suggested attack might be used to exercise local defence.
(INDOMITABLE, 1452/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Approved. See C. in C. A.W.I., 1031Q/10).

U.S. Fleet. Dispositions U.S. Asiatic fleet, so far as is known in Washington. Cruisers HOUSTON, BOISE, Seaplane tender LANGLEY and 2 destroyers escorting southbound tanker convoy in Sulu Sea. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD and 2 destroyers at Balik Papan. 4 destroyers en route for Singapore. Information from C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet has been scanty. (B.A.D. 1539R/9 to Admty).

/NAMARIB...

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

NAMARIB. My 1829Z/7 (?1827/7 intended) New York now reports U.S. NAMARIB arrived 29/11. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1546Z/9 to Admty).

ATLAS. (Italian). My 1257R/1/8. Ship can now sail under own steam. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1621R/9 to Admty).

Shipping. My 1135/8. Vessels bound for West Coast of South America only released. Those for West Coast North America still held as well as Trans. Pacific. (C.S.A. Panama, 1725/9 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

Suspicious Tanker. Large dark grey tanker, two guns aft, sighted heading S.W. 34.45 N., 70.30 W., 1430 G.C.T. Turned N.E. then to westward at 1529. Did not reply to SANGAMON flashing light challenge. May be British Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER. (Opnav, 1730Z/9 to C. in C. Lant, Admty). Your 1730Z/9 Dec. SCOTTISH HEATHER arrived Bermuda 8/12 and still in harbour. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1659Q/9 to Opnav). Your 1730Z/9. Agree this may be British Tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER estimated position at 1800 G.C.T. 31½° N., 68½° W., steering S. Dutch tanker ONDINA also in this vicinity steering N. (D.C., 2330Z/9 to Opnav).

ERIDAN. Letter from Passenger in French ERIDAN dated Dakar 25/11 states that on receiving news of capture of 5 Vichy ships near the Cape, ERIDAN turned back to Dakar. Passengers may suffer same fate as ALSINA's passengers 12 months ago. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1759Q/9 to Admty F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

Chile, policy. Chilean Naval C. in C. today confidentially informed me that during present emergency Chilean Battleship ALMIRANTE LATORRE and 4 destroyers will be remaining on northern sector of coast which means Valparaiso to Arica. Submarines and their depot ships and cruisers of Chacabuco contingent sent Magellan Straits. No naval arrangements are being made at present for patrol of dangerous areas between Puerto Montt and Gulf of Penas but Chilean Air Force units are being sent to Puerto Montt and Punta Arenas.

/Chilean....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Chile, policy. Contd.	Chilean M.F.A. is communicating with neighbouring Republics for convening a conference to consider necessary action to be taken in accordance with Declaration No. 15 Havana Conference of July 1940. No doubt Japanese action has caused Chile to seriously consider possibility of becoming involved. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1830/9 to Admty).
NASTURTIUM.	My 1859Z/8. Has following damage. (details). Owing to other commitments this work cannot be undertaken at St. Johns. 2. If it is desired to repair ship at U.S. Port request this be arranged. 3. Intend sailing NASTURTIUM to Halifax 10/12 pending decision. (C.C.N.F., 1916Z/9 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
Routeing of Shipping.	U.S. Authorities are not issuing any instructions for British and Allied shipping on east coast. Propose therefore to route ships for Australia and New Zealand from east coast Canadian and U.S. ports as far south as Jacksonville via the Cape. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1927Z/9 to Admty, Repeated C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D.)
Coastal Trade.	Representations have been made verbally to Navy Dept. advocating resumption of flow of coastal trade northward of Panama. C.N.O. has information pointing to likelihood of hostile raids and is of opinion that ships should not sail until the situation is clarified. (B.A.D. 2031/9 to Admty).
TADOUSSAC, WEDGEPORT.	N.S.H.Q. 1501/8/10. TADOUSSAC and WEDGEPORT are out of Great Lakes and they should arrive Saint John N.B. for completion within few days R.N. crews will be required about mid February. (B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 2101Z/9 to Admty).
OLWEN "Q" Report 4/11.	Your 1455N/7/11 not to Admiralty. Ref. QQQQ from Oiler OLWEN at 0530Z/4/11. OLWEN reports one round was fired at her but owing to darkness anddrizzle nothing was sighted. Five minutes later message was received from ship using call sign "Nerk" advising course S.W. this was ignored. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2203Q/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/Movement.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movement of Air Force personnel.

Movement Control requests consideration may be given for a troopship from Halifax, midway between future T.C. convoys, which could take up to 2,000 air force personnel, as delays between completion of training and arrival U.K. most detrimental. Air force personnel are now coming forward at rate of 125 per day ready for embarkation at Halifax and this rate may increase. If this request can be arranged it will reduce forecast of requirements of about 7,500 service personnel for Jan., Feb. and March. My 1541/29/10 refers.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2245Z/9 to D. of S.T.)

Free French Operation, St. Pierre.

No. 6. (1) I shall sail for Halifax with MIMOSA, ALYSSE, ACONIT which I can use until 16/12. SURCOUF will be Halifax. (2) Am ready to effect operation "St. Pierre Et Miquelon". Considering new general situation shall (?) proceed at once to Ottawa to secure agreement of Canada and America (sic).
(3) Request you will apply for British agreement and inform me of result.
(Adm. Muselier, 2300Z/9 to Gen. de Gaulle).

Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy Air Activity.

At 0100Z/8 enemy aircraft (corrupt group) Nauru but made no attack. So far no further enemy activity on Australian Station.
(A.C.N.B., 0454Z/9 to Admty).

Lighting Precautions.

Q.F.A.61 Australian Confidential Books 0213. Stage 2 of Lighting restrictions in Force in New Guinea, New Britain, New Ireland, Papua, Norfolk Islands, New Hebrides, Nauru and Solomon Islands. Except at Port Moresby and Rabaul where stage 1 is in operation.
(A.C.N.B., 0530Z/9 to All Concerned Q.F.A. Message).

Shipping Signals.

Request departure and route signal for ships crossing Tasman and Coral Seas be addressed to N.B. Melbourne repeated F.O.C. Australian Sqn.
(A.C.N.B., 1115Z/9 to N.Z.N.B.)

/TUSCAN...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

TUSCAN STAR, fire.

On arrival at Melbourne M/V TUSCAN STAR 5/12, Master reported destruction by fire of 1 cased aeroplane during voyage from Liverpool. Case loaded Sandon Dock Liverpool between 0600 and 0630 Monday 18/10. At 1217/22/11 smoke observed coming from case marked AUS.1154/1. Case broken open and whole contents observed ablaze extinguished in 15 minutes by water. Plane found completely gutted all aluminium sections melted and unrecognizable, indications are that fire commenced in pilot seat in cockpit but destruction so complete no tangible evidence found. Two explosions noted considered to be due to fire extinguishers exploding parts which were found in wreckage. No signs of burns on exterior of packing case boards of which were nailed very closely together precluding possibility cigarette falling or being inserted into case. (Details of Plane etc).
(A.C.N.B., 1152Z/9 to Admty).

Tankers.

Requested that all tankers putting into Australian and New Zealand ports may proceed, circumstances permitting, to originally nominated discharge ports and thence to Fremantle for orders.(D.T.D., 2003A/9 to A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

PORT CAMPBELL.

Your 1505A/8, arrived Auckland 3/12.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1150M/9 to Admty).

LEANDER.

Departure Auckland LEANDER for patrol North of New Zealand. (D.N.I. Wellington, 1302M/9 to Admty etc).

Enemy Landings Butaritari, Tarawa, Ocean Island.

Japanese apparently made successful landings on Butaritari and Tarawa Island, island in the Gilbert Islands at about 1645Z/9. Ocean Island bombed twice yesterday but W/T station still functioning.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 2327Z/9 to C. in C. Pacific Fleet).

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 9.12.1941. Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

SAINT DENIS. Intercept 1244 G.M.T. Unread COMAR ALGER. SAINT DENIS attaque pardeux sous-marins par 39.22 N. 03.30 E. 1223/9/12. SAINT DENIS. (Plymouth C.C.O. from Land's End Radio, 1348/9 to Admiral, Plymouth.)
Following intercepted in French begins: S.S. SAINT DENIS attacked by 2 submarines in 39.22 N. 3.30 E. 1223/9/12. (ends).
(S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1511A/9 to Admty.)

CLAN MACBEAN. Your 1546A/5 (Request for information as to whether CLAN MACBEAN has been sunk.) CLAN MACBEAN reported in position 10° 19' S. 6° 44' W. at 1345Z/9.
(C. in C. S.A., 1531Z/9 to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

1523 G.M.T./8. Submarine sounded contact 052° 32' N. 040° 43' W. at 1523 G.M.T./8. Suggest possibility of 2 or 3 submarines bound for Newfoundland Coast.
(U.S.C.N.O., 0202/9 to Admty., C. in C. A.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

On E.I. Station. C. in C. E.I., 0752Z/9. See East Indies.

0944. One S/M 340° 2 knots 40° N., 14° W. 0648 dived.
(HESPERUS, 0944/9 to Gibraltar.)
See also S/M's attacked.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C., 1418A/9, 1419A/9.)

1256. 3 U-Boats in 036° 35' N. 007° 35' W. course southerly at 1256/9.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1651A/9 to N.A. Stn.)

Ascension, 1719. Following has been read. 1 S/M bearing 230° 8 miles course 000° West Ascension.
(Freetown, 1719/9 to Whitehall.)
My 1719. Military Garrison has opened fire.
(O.i/c. Ascension, 1737Z/9 to C. in C. S.A.)
Military authorities report that S/M when first sighted was enveloped in a cloud of white smoke which made recognition impossible. Smoke later cleared away and revealed S/M, this was confirmed by naval rating who endeavoured to contact S/M by light. S/M made no effort to dive until fired on.
(O.i/c. Ascension, 1929Z/9 to C. in C. S.A.)

/1610, Med....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

9.12.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported - Contd.

1610, Med. — Aircraft report submarine dived position 335° Raz Azzaz 30 miles at 1610/9.
(S.O. Force I, 1727B/9 to Med. Fleet.)
My 1727/9. Course 300°.
(S.O. Force I, 1812B/9 to Med. Fleet.)

Submarines Attacked.

By AZALEA, HESPERUS. — A/S operation 9/12. AZALEA carried out attack on contact in position 280 Spartelcnine at 0806/9.
(2) HESPERUS sighted S/M at 0944/9 in 40.06 N. 13.12 W. S/M dived. Two pattern dropped on a good contact. No results observed.
(3) Aircraft Clare reported sighting three S/Ms in 36.35 N. 07.35 W. at 1256/9. S/Ms dived, Clare did not remain in the vicinity. Three destroyers and Catalina sent to hunt.
(4) Hunting forces and patrols considerably reduced to meet other commitments.
(5) Weather improving but air activity still limited.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2358A/9 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Operations.

6 Bomber Command aircraft attacked targets in N.W. Germany today, and one claims a direct hit on a tanker in the mouth of the Ems. Coastal Command aircraft continued their attacks on shipping off the coast of Norway.

Enemy Air Operations.

At 1430 today South Lighthouse, Fair Isle was attacked by cannon shell. Damage was superficial.

Mining.

8 Hampdens of Bomber Command laid mines today off the Frisian Islands.

It appears possible that the new German ground mines will endanger ships in considerably greater depth of water than has hitherto been the case. In view of the large amount of shallow water in searched channels in the Nore Command and absence of deeper water into which traffic might be diverted, C. in C. Nore asks that some vessels of Fleet M/S type may be fitted out and used to sweep these mines ahead of convoys in suspected areas.

The drifter KINGCORTH was sunk in Liverpool Bay this morning, probably by a floating mine.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

It is reported from Tunis 8/12 that the French have been making naval, military and air preparations. A.A. defences are being constructed at Tunis air port and further mines have been laid and a net placed across the gateway of the lake at Bizerta. There are reported to be 4 destroyers, 3 T.Bs. and 11 S/Ms. at Bizerta.

Forces B. and K. operated west of Malta last night, but no interceptions are reported.

Libya and Western Desert.

A patrol has been maintained north of Derna by one cruiser and 2 destroyers nightly without any enemy forces being encountered. C.S.15 and destroyers bombarded Derna and merchant ships in harbour at 0800 today at close range, damaging a 2,000 ton merchant ship and port installations. The force was attacked by T.B. and dive bombing aircraft throughout the forenoon, apparently without damage and is now returning to Alexandria.

Tobruk has been effectively relieved and the land supply route is now open. Shelling of the town has ceased but bombing continues and minelaying is suspected.

Greek destroyers have patrolled nightly off Bardia without incident.

Far East.

In view of the naval and military situation in the Far East the immediate policy as regards merchant shipping is as follows:-
All British and Allied, other than U.S.A. and Dutch shipping is to be withdrawn from Malaya, Borneo, Sumatra area to Australia or Indian ports, and shipping from the Philippines to Australian ports. No shipping is to be retained for running outward convoys, as it is not yet clear how this is to be effected.

The Dutch Naval C. in C. is to be informed and advised to adopt a similar policy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet took over the command and administration of the China Station at 0030Z today and the flag of Vice Admiral Sir G. Layton was struck at sunset.

PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE sunk.

PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE were sunk this afternoon (local time) by H.L.B. and torpedo bombing attacks whilst operating off the coast of Malaya. It is reported that 7 of the attacking aircraft were shot down by the ships' fire; our ships had no fighter protection (see 8/12). About 130 officers and 2,050 men were saved. C. in C. Eastern Fleet is missing and at 2250A today the Admiralty instructed Vice-Admiral Layton to carry out the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet, with discretion to fly his flag on shore or afloat, until it is known whether Admiral Phillips has been saved.

Hong Kong.

Stonecutters W/T station was shelled for 6 hours today. At 1755Z today N.O.I.C. Hong Kong reported that he intended to demolish the station within a few hours and would use the emergency station. Bombing attacks on Hong Kong continued today and CICALA was hit, but not badly damaged.

Malaya.

Japanese air and land attacks continue in North Malaya without making much progress. Several of our aerodromes have been demolished or prepared for demolition; heavy scale of enemy air attack has made most of our northern aerodromes unusable. It is estimated that one enemy division had landed in the Kelantan area by 1430 G.M.T. today. Four landings have been attempted at Kuantan. Blenheims are endeavouring to intercept a convoy of 25 transports which is attempting to land reinforcements at Kota Bharu and Singora - Patani areas. The Sarawak Miri oil denial scheme has been completed and the destruction of the aerodrome is proceeding. There are reported to have been 3 air attacks on Penang today.

/Philippines...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China. - Contd.

Philippines. A major attack has developed on Luzon with naval and air support.
Landings are reported on the west coast.
There was an air raid on Manila for 45 minutes p.m. today the main damage being at the naval base at Cavite where extensive damage is reported. The U.S. Army Commander reports that the Japanese have overwhelming preponderance of air strength and consider that if pressure continues the U.S. Air Force will be wiped out by attrition. The U.S. air forces claim to have sunk one enemy transport and severely damaged 2 others. The U.S. G.O.C. Philippines reports that there are indications that Japanese dive bombers are at least partially manned by white pilots.

Guam. There are no further reports.

Wake. Reports are confused: it is not known whether the Japanese have landed or merely bombed or shelled the island.

America & West Indies.

Aircraft R/C reveals unusual activity at Martinique, including funnel smoke from vessels in harbour and work about aircraft.
Concentration of war material at Cayenne is reported.

Ecuador has asked the U.S.A. to take over the defence of the Galapagos Islands.

The Navy Department this evening authorised resumption of Trans-Pacific Shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to the southwards and of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama. At 1201, however, the Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama, reported that the U.S. Naval Authorities had cancelled these orders and were still holding North Pacific coastal traffic. Only one British ship is affected.

/The....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

The withdrawal of the British Naval forces from the Pacific area is now expected by the U.S.C.N.O., with the exception of the Canadian coastal zone.

Australia.

There was a further air attack on Nauru at 0034Z today. Nauru and Ocean Island have put into execution plans for demolishing the phosphate loading gear.

New Zealand.

It is reported that the Japanese made a further landing on Makin Island at 2157 G.M.T. today. Three Japanese warships were reported at Tarawa Island at 0500Z today.

There are no important developments in Hawaii. A shortage of 50 calibre ammunition is reported.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

KLIPPAREN. TEMNAREN. — I understand Swedish ships KLIPPAREN and TEMNAREN are eastwards bound from North American ports. In view of latest developments in international situation request early instructions if ships are to be allowed to proceed to Gothenburg. If ships are to be detained and period of detention denoted be long suggest they should be diverted direct to Kirkwall if intercepted on Northern patrol lines. Skaale Fiord is only anchorage here for detained ships but as this is much used by S.O. 4th M/S F. his presence here would be compromised and liability of present enemy air activity further increased. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 0935A/10).

LIVERPOOL. — A.M. 1654A/4. Cancel Para. 1. (D.O.D. H. 1819A/10 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

M.T.B. Forces at Dover. — The 5th and 6th M.T.B. Flotillas have been frequently in action and constantly at short notice for a considerable period and I am of opinion that arrangements for resting these Flotillas in turn should now be made. The progress of 11th M.T.B. Flotilla vide A.M. 1812A/18/8 is not known but suggest that these three Flotillas should be allocated for service at Dover and that there should always be one of them at a less active base with a change round made every month - Weymouth is suggested for the latter so that exercises and training could be carried out there with slipping and repairs effected at HORNET. The present number of boats in these Flotillas should mean that at Dover there would be at least 3 and probably 4 at immediate notice with 2 at four hours notice which numbers may be considered satisfactory. (V.A. Dover 1829A/10).

Co-operation with U.S.A.

S/M's from U.S.A. — Request following Message may be passed to Admiral Ghormley and via Opnav to Commander S/Ms Atlantic Fleet begins: I am glad to be able to tell you that the two S/M's you have recently turned over to us arrived this side without a single engine defect. I am most grateful to you for turning them over in such splendid condition. 1317 Ends. (F.O.S. 1318A/10 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Loss of Stores. — Your 17310/27. Report requirements of Victualling Stores to make up losses as far as known. (Head of M. 1411A/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Blockships at Scapa.

Your 1203A/5. Approved to make use of blockships as they become available in the way you consider best provided one is retained as spare.
2. COLLINGDOC completes preparation at Rosyth about 17.1.42.
3. CAROLINA THORDEN will take at least three months to prepare at Blyth, unexpected difficulties having arisen. (A.C.N.S. H. 1832A/10 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

H.43.

At 2100A/12 intend to sail H.43 escorted by BREDA from Rothesay through Sounds of Islay and Mull to arrive Tobermory at 1800A/13. S. of A. 8 knots. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (Capt. S.7. 0941A/10).

DUKE OF YORK.

Return to Scapa forthwith. (A.C.N.S. H. 1012A/10 and C. in C. H.F. 1216A/10 to DUKE OF YORK).
1300 DUKE OF YORK proceeding Scapa. E.T.A. 0945A/11. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1458A/10 to C. in C. H.F.)

Floating Dock.

My 1928/30/11. Intend to retain EMPIRE LARCH until weather is suitable for towing and to escort Floating Dock with one Trawler only. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1315Z/10).

P.41.

My 1033A/7 and 1457A/9. Sailed P.41 escorted by SWEETBRIAR E.T.A. Clyde 1100A/11. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 1530A/10).

TIGRIS.

S.3's 1801/8. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1803A/10).

MANXMAN.

Admiralty 1240A/9. MANXMAN endurance at 20 knots is 3100 miles and at 34 knots 1100 miles. Higher speed is not at present available owing to a defect. In this class of ship speed made good is more than ordinarily dependent on weather. Propose I should be given a route clear of convoy and be ordered to make passage at best speed. E.T.A. would be made 6 hours before arrival. (MANXMAN 2157A/10 to C. in C. Plymouth).

BARFORD. BARCLOSE. BARFOAM.

N.O.I.C. Londonderry's 1123A/10 and Adty. 1743A/2. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail BARFORD BARCLOSE and BARFOAM in company to Ponta Delgada as soon as ready calling at Milford Haven to top with fuel, route through 50° N. 20° W., thence to destination. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to ensure that vessels do not sail if weather likely to be experienced is unfavourable.

/F.O.C.N.A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BARFORD.
BARCLOSE.
BARFOAM.
- Contd.

F.O.C.N.A. is requested to provide onward route from Azores. (C. in C. W.A. 2354A/10).

Operations.

SEALION Patrol.

Your 1204A/8. SEALION has acknowledged my 1821C/8. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 0919C/10 to F.O.S.)
My 1204A/8. SEALION has spoken. Claim probably refers to successful attack by Soviet Submarine K.3. on 3/12 reported in S.B.N.O. North Russia 1601C/9. (F.O.S. 1022A/10 to Adty.)
Your 2201C/9 read but not understood. (? Request) (? verification of) your 2102C/8 addressed SEALION. (? Pending) instructions I am remaining on patrol in zone 4 until after dark 13th, then returning in accordance with original (? orders). (SEALION 1414C/10 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Correct H.S. 463 to read; leave patrol to be clear of zone 4 by 2200C/11. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1837C/10 to SEALION).

P.38 Patrol.

P.38 estimated position 0800/10 049° 35' N. 010° 35' W. ordered to patrol between latitudes 49° and 50° N. longitudes 13° and 15° W. (C. in C. Plymouth 0958/10 to RAMILLIES).

Operation "Anklet".

A.M. 1020A/9. Concur in para. 2. (C. in C. H.F. 1502A/10).
My 1228/7. For TARTAR read BEDOUIN. Add HARRIER, HALCYON, SPEEDWELL. (C. in C. H.F. 2111A/10 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing Operations.

No operations on 8/12, Night 8/9, or Night 9/10. (H.Q.B.C. 1400/10).

Escorting A/C.

In conditions of low visibility ships on escort duty should not request escorting aircraft to carry out any duty that will involve closing merchant ships nearer than the limit laid down. This endangers friendly aircraft and was recently the cause of one being fired upon by a merchant ship. (D.S.D., 1927A/10).

Enemy Air Activity.

Fair Isle Lighthouse.

At 1430 today enemy A/C presumed JU. 88 attacked South Lighthouse Fair Isle with cannon shell doing superficial damage to building.
One Lighthouse keeper suffering from shock. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1751/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Liverpool. — Your 0125A/10. Port, including QZS 298, is closed until 0915A/10th. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 0155/10 to VANOC).

Bristol Channel. — At 1040A/10 one Green Mine detonated by Sweeper in 300° 6 miles 2 cables Foreland Estuary Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1700A/10).

Thames Estuary. — One Acoustic Mine detonated at 1308/10. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1701/10).

S.N. 25 C. — Departure MENESTHEUS. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1711A/10).

Spurn Point. — The following six magnetic mines were detonated today. Details.
Also one acoustic mine as follows.
(F.O. Humber 2125A/10).

New Enemy Mines. — It would appear possible that the new German ground mines will endanger ships in a considerably greater depth of water than has hitherto been the case.
In view of the large amount of shallow water in searched channels of the Nore command and absence of deeper water into which traffic might be diverted, request that consideration may be given to fitting out some vessels of fleet M/S type which could be used to sweep these mines ahead of convoy in suspected areas. (C. in C. Nore 2210A/10).

Enemy Intelligence.

Tanker. — Following report graded B.2. received.
At 1100 G.M.T./10th 1 tanker 8,000 tons loaded, escorted by a trawler, passed Hellefiord (61° 56' N., 04° 58' E.) Course North.
(D.D.I.C. 1555A/10).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

NEWPORT. Steering broke down proceeding Iceland under hand steering. 0130A (? 12th) 059° 14' N. 014° 36' W. 315° 10 knots. (NEWPORT 0155A/10).

PETERTON. Received 0320 G.M.T. Naval Control Swansea PETERTON aground East Scarweather Sands arrange tugs. Master ends. (Burnham Radio. Recd. 0434/10) Pass to PETERTON. Am sending Tugs. Cannot undock before 0700. Is ship in immediate danger? (N.C.S.O. Swansea 0515/10 to C. in C. W.A.) Following received at 0630 to Burnham Radio PETERTON no immediate danger. Master. (Burnham Radio No T.O.O. Recd. 1901/10).

R.J. CULLEN. Cancel my 1625A/9. If circumstances permit R.J. CULLEN is to be towed to the Mersey. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1129A/10 to TENACITY).
Your 1129A/10. Position Orsay Island 348° 6 miles. Speed 4.5 knots. Proceeding to Mersey E.T.A. later. (TENACITY 1530Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

SVEND FOYN. SVEND FOYN is to be towed to Mersey. (N.L.O.C. Greenock 1623A/10 to SALVONIA).

NEWMARKET. Serious rise in boiler (? density) necessitates returning to harbour. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1700A/11. (NEWMARKET 1901A/10).

KELLETT. KELLETT's Starboard H.P. Piston rings and Cylinders badly worn. Probably Port H.P. in similar conditon. Hope to be able release KELLETT for boiler cleaning, now 250 hours overdue, within next 10 days. Request yard may be allocated. (S.O. 4 M/S F. 2130A/10).

Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.14. C. in C. Plymouth's 1518/9. Propose HASTINGS be sailed from Plymouth when ready proceeding South of Ireland to meet O.S.14 at sea. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1016A/10).
A.M. 1743A/2/12. Propose that BARFORD, BARCLOSE and BARFOAM should proceed weather permitting with O.S.14 to vicinity of Azores. Consider it undesirable that these low powered ships should sail independently during winter weather. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1123A/10).

/East.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

East Coast Convoys Maximum number of ships.

Admiralty 1928A/9/12. It is preferred that the number of vessels in any one Convoy should be decided in conjunction with C. in C. Rosyth. The number of escorts available, weather conditions and conditions of mining etc. at the Humber must all be taken into account on each occasion.
2. Under winter weather conditions. I anticipate that it may sometimes be desirable to exceed 50 ships in convoys north and south of the Humber as was done during the last winter. (C. in C. Nore 1050A/10 to Adty.).

P.Q.6.

Your 1751N/8. Request reasons why BOTAVON and SOUTHGATE did not sail. (D.T.D. 1117A/10 to A.C.I.C.)

BADDECK and M/V's.

Have several M/V's for U.K. and no escort in immediate future. As BADDECK's repairs should be completed about 12/12 request permission for her to escort merchant ships to U.K. prior to joining O.N. Convoy. (A.C.I.C. 1147N/10 to C. in C. W.A.)

W.S.14.

Not met in R.V.8 noon today. (WITHERINGTON 1230A/10).

Q.P. convoys.

C.N.S. today said that Admiral K had reported that Q.P. convoys would proceed unescorted after passing 23° E. Please let me know present policy. (Ad. Miles 1319D/10 to Adty.)

P.Q.7.

Request names of ships for P.Q.7. (A.C.I.C. 1631N/10 to Admty.)

MENELAUS: EURYBATES.

Admiralty 2345A/9. MENELAUS and EURYBATES unable to reach Capetown without refuelling. Request instructions as to whether O.S. Convoy is to be delayed for them or whether ships should be sailed in O.N. refuelling in West Indies. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1820/10 to Admty.)
Your 1820/10. Confirmed that O.S. Convoy is to be delayed for these ships. (D.T.D. 2215A/10 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

/H.X. 161.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 161. Congratulations on bringing H.X. 161 safely to the U.K. (C. in C. W.A. 2123A/10 to Commodore R. Spencer.)

Q.P.3. Russians inform us that KUZBASS and ARCOS which lost touch with Q.P.3. have returned White Sea.

Q.P.4. (2). Q.P.4. Intend include ARCOS, STALINGRAD, SUKHOMA with timber and DAN Y BRYN, EMPIRE METEOR with ore. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (N.C.S.O. Archangel 21300/10 and 13000/11).

MOST SECRET

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

HARVESTER. Return to Gibraltar forthwith at best speed reporting E.T.A. when 100 miles clear of convoy.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0234A/10 to HARVESTER, repeated BLACK SWAN, Admiralty, C. in C. W.A., Capt. (D) 19, Escort of O.G.77.)

HIGHLANDER, LIGHTNING, HARVESTER. Your 2242A/9. Intend sailing HIGHLANDER, LIGHTNING at 0700A/11 and HARVESTER as soon as she has refuelled, my 0234/10 refers.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0314A/10 to Admty, repeated S.O. Force H., LIGHTNING, Capt. (D) 19, HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER.)
Arrival HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/10 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. S.A.)
My 1242A/10. Delete HARVESTER.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1032A/11.)
Rejoin convoy O.G.77 daylight/11.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1437A/10 to HARVESTER.)
Cancel my 1816A/9 (Re fuelling for HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER and LIGHTNING.)
(F.O.C.N.A., 1445A/10 to N.A. Lisbon.)

REGENT. My 1110/8 and F.O.(S) 2243/8. Departure REGENT. Only such "Q" messages to affect passage to Portsmouth carried.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0950A/10 to Admty.)

Rescue Tug, Azores. Your 1041/20/11 regarding stationing of rescue tug at Azores. It is noted that Portuguese objection to SALVONIA is that she was formerly commissioned. If Canadian Company Foundation Maritime Ltd. could be prevailed on to station their ocean going salvage tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN at Azores would Portuguese agree? Request urgent reply.
(Hd. of M., 1136A/10 to N.A. Lisbon, rep. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

URSULA. Your 0031A/3. Intend to give URSULA an 8 day anti U-Boat patrol. She will be sailed for U.K. 26/12.
(Capt. S.8, 1536A/10 to F.O.S.)

Gibraltar, defence against midget S/M's. (1) A.L.M. 016933 and my 2002A/12/11. If laying a considerable portion of this boom in water over which Spaniards claim jurisdiction can be accepted, request A/T net for defence of convoy anchorage be sent.
Further remarks.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1548A/10 to Admty.)

/Fuelling ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Fuelling, Ponta Delgada.

EREBUS, ROBERTS and FRITTILLARY arrived Ponta Delgada 1830 G.M.T./10.
ROCKINGHAM, BRADFORD are waiting outside territorial waters.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1720/10 to S.O.I. Gib.)

LIGHTNING.

Cancel my 1814A/9 to LIGHTNING only (N.T. in W.R.) Proceed at 1830/10 to carry out A/S search in vicinity of 270° Spartel 40. Swordfish aircraft will be co-operating (? Rendezvous with) S.O.(D) 19 in accordance with my 1516A/10.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1724A/10 to LIGHTNING.)

South Atlantic.

Uruguay, policy towards Japan.

Your 1751Z/9. Please keep me fully informed of developments. Inform Minister and Naval Attaches that I am unable to visit them in immediate future but will do so as soon as possible.
(R.A.S.A.D., 0723Z/10 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Simonstown arrival 0700Z/10 BIRMINGHAM flying flag of R.A.S.A.D.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0850/10 to Admty., etc.)

Pocket Battleship Report.

Your 2228Z/9. SCHEER last located Swinemunde 30/11. LUTZOW Kiel 29/11.
(D.D.I.C., 1022A/10 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

BULOLO, ASTURIAS.

BULOLO is to fuel at Buenos Aires on 29/12 leaving K.32 as necessary. BULOLO is to make appropriate visit signal vide C.S.A.I.150, subsequently BULOLO is to proceed to J.33 (c) and (d) to relieve ASTURIAS who is then to proceed K.32 K.33. ASTURIAS will next fuel at Rio de Janeiro about 7/1.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1031Z/10 to BULOLO, ASTURIAS.)

Troop Movement.

Your 1536/9. Anticipate ocean escort can be provided.
(C. in C. S.A., 1132Z/10 to Admty. Amended 1910/10.)

/DERBYSHIRE ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DERBYSHIRE. Shift your patrol to K.36.
(C. in C. S.A., 1247Z/10 to DERBYSHIRE.)

U/B off Ascension. O.C. Troops Ascension reports at 1737/9 he engaged a submarine at 10,000 yards and fired 3 rounds before it submerged. C. in C. S.A. immediately informed. BRILLIANT arrives at Ascension before dark 10/12. C. in C. S.A. also says H.M. ships will be operating in neighbourhood of Ascension on 11/12 and for a few days after. My 1400/8 M.O.4 refers (No trace in W.R.)
(O.C. Troops, St. Helena, 1400/10 to W.O.)

German S/M & R. Bases. Secret source graded B.3 reports establishment of Supply base for submarines and raiders in vicinity of Florianopolis in conjunction with Land Owners near Blumenau and Joinville who carry supplies in German sports club launches to uninhabitable island off the coast. Similar reports concerning Chiloe Is. Archipelago on German owned uninhabitable islands. Work in charge of members calling themselves diplomats headed by Erich Hoerhammer, German passports 707856 and 334 and 815822 employed by Condor. He is making frequent trips to Chile and reputed to smuggle Germans in these aeroplanes. Last heard of leaving Buenos Aires 28/7 for Santiago but unconfirmed report he is under arrest there. Can you obtain any confirmation?
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1429Z/10 to R.O.Florianopolis S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro, Naval Attache Santiago, repeated Admiralty for D.N.I.)
N.I.D. Comment: Florianopolis (27° 36' S. 48° 34' W.) on Santa Catharina Island is practically a German town with a population of 40-50,000, headquarters of the powerful German firm of Carlos Hoepke. Blumenan is an inland German settlement on the mainland, and Joinville, another German settlement of 20,000 inhabitants, is on the mainland coast, both north of Sta. Catharina Island. There are number of islets off the coast north of and to the east of Santa Catharina Island. Chiloe Island is a large Island lying south of Puerto Monte in the heart of the German area of Chile. Many reports have been received of suspicious activities in this neighbourhood, but none has been substantiated.

/U/B's, ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U/B's, St. Helena. DERBYSHIRE, BIRMINGHAM.

In view of recent developments consider you should get back to your station as soon as possible. U-Boats which were South of St. Helena appeared to have moved North but I will leave DERBYSHIRE on patrol in bar area till BIRMINGHAM has passed. I have not moved Oiler ARNDALE from position you ordered her to.
(C. in C. S.A., 1511Z/10 to R.A.S.A.D.)
Your 1511Z/10. Intend sail in BIRMINGHAM at 0630Z/11 for Plate Area. S. of A. 16 knots.
(R.A.S.A.D., 2045Z/10 to C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.12X.

B.A.D. Washington 1807B/4. Convoy W.S.12X escorted by DORSETSHIRE and six American destroyers expected to leave Capetown a.m./13. Delay due to making good defects. Destroyers will return Capetown Monday 15 to refuel.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1518Z/10 to Admty., etc.)

WARTENFELS (German)

My 1541/2 (WARTENFELS leaving Madagascar.)
A reliable source states that this ship carries Mica and probably Graphite and is probably armed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1805Z/10 to S.A. Stn.)

Argentine Policy.

Argentine neutrality decree issued today declares in view of inter-American agreement of Buenos Aires, Lima, Panama and Havana and of an extra-continental aggression against sovereign of an American state, Argentine will not consider U.S. a belligerent but declares its neutrality under existing rules as regards Great Britain, Canada and Japan.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1810Z/10 to D.N.I., repeated various.)

ECHODALE.

Cancel previous instructions. Proceed so as to arrive in new position: P 006° 40' S. 012° 00' W. at 1200Z/12 and daily thereafter Maintain this R/V by steering 300° from 1200 to 2000 thence 180° till 0400 thence back to P.
(C. in C. S.A., 1845Z/10 to ECHODALE.)

AIDA LAURO, PAMPANO, LIBRATO.

Pernambuco reports Italian ships AIDA LAURO, PAMPANO and LIBRATO are being transferred to Brazilian flag today 10th.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 2153Z/10 to Admty.)

/ORIZABA ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ORIZABA. Your 1329/3. Fuel consumption of ORIZABA in W.S.12X limits endurance of ship so that she cannot proceed further than Mombasa from Capetown. Suggested vessel should put into Mombasa for fuel and remain there if necessary until she can join W.S.12Z when that convoy passes. Ship will also require to fuel Aden on outward and return passage. Possibility of distributing personnel among remaining ships was considered as alternative but discarded on advice of Impcon.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 2154B/10 to Admty.)
No objection.
(Admty., 1330A/12.)

Mediterranean.

2 CONDOTTIERI cruisers. P.C. and S. of enemy (A/ACR) 004 37° N. 12° E. 50 - 345° - 24 knots.
(Med. A/C, 0054B/10 to A/C.)
Enemy has altered course to 345° approx.
(Med. A/C, 0055/10 to A/C.)

Operation orders. Cancel my 1928B/9.
(Capt. (S) 10, 0104B/10 to UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT.)

Air attack. Estimated time of air attack 0430 but position unknown depends on enemy movements.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0210B/10 to Force K.)

Malta Movements. Arrivals 10/12 NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR at 0800B.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 0917B/10 to C. in C. Med.)
Add to my 0917B/10, departure URGE.
(V.A. Malta, 1841B/10.)

UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT. UTMOST arrives in patrol position at approx. 0001B/12 from which time submarines are not to be attacked at night unless definitely identified as enemy. UTMOST will endeavour to contact UNBEATEN at 0800 and UPRIGHT at 1600 daily by S S T ranging.
(Capt. S.10, 0950B/10 to UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT, repeated UTMOST.)

/Russian ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Russian Tankers from Black Sea.	Your 1012/8. It appears preferable to discharge oil from second batch of tankers in Turkey if Turks require it. Seems no point in bringing it south, and if any tankers are unfortunately captured a good deal of badly needed oil will be obtained by Axis. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles and Ankara. (C. in C. Med., 1016B/10 to Admty.)
Enemy Convoy. Suda Bay.	Convoy 5 transports and 3 warships reported in Suda Bay. Troops, food and water are being flown to Libya from Maleme. Your 1739B/8, well done. (Capt. S.1., 1041B/10 to TRUANT.)
URGE, UNIQUE.	URGE leaves 035° 51' 015° 15' about 1800B/10 to operate in area E. My 1239B/9, remain on patrol until 0001B/12. 2 important supply ships expected to pass South through Straits of Messina between noon and midnight 11/12. (Capt. S.10, 1045B/10 to UNIQUE.)
TALISMAN, PERSEUS.	My 1941B/9. Insert TALISMAN before "return". (Capt. S.1., 1125B/10 to TALISMAN and PERSEUS.)
THORGRIM.	Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 090 RAR3 0. (Position indecipherable.) (THORGRIM, 1155/10.) Following has been read. Addressed Alexandria. From THORGRIM. Negative my 1153B (Emergency Air Attack) (No T.O.O./10.)
Air Operations.	Day 9/12. Unsuccessful morning and afternoon attacks by total 11 Blenheims 2 Marylands on small ship with barge alongside in Bardia Harbour. Blenheims forced submarine 20 miles N.N.W. Mersa Lukk to crash dive. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1237/10.)
JERVIS bombed.	2. Egypt. 9/12. 1 JU.88 unsuccessfully attacked destroyer JERVIS 25 miles north Burg El Arab. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1248/10.)
French Shipping.	Departure 9th COETLOGON, Sete. Arrival 10th ST. BRIEC. (Barcelona, 1301/10 to D. of S.T.)

/? S.S.KELAND ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

? S.S. KELAND.

Norwegian ship S.S. (?KELAND) struck rock and beached off Khan Tunis 29/11. Crew and some arms and ammunition rescued.
(G.O.C. P. & T.J., 1340/10.)

Enemy Destroyers.

At 1210B, 2 D (? destroyers) patrolling 050° Cotrone 20 miles course 10° 12 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 1503B/10 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

MIKOYAN. Russian Ships from Black Sea.

Russian N.A. requests MIKOYAN be retained in Egyptian port pending receipt of further instructions from Russian Govt. Presume these will be passed by Adm. Miles through you and may have already been received. (2) Routeing arrangements.
(3) Admty. repeat Adm. Miles.
(N.A. Angora, 1521B/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Defence of Delta.

Chiefs of Staff No. 208. Ref. C.O.S. 199 and your 0129160 21/11 despatch of Mission to advise on air defence of Delta has been approved. (Composition of Mission). Request they be granted every facility to complete task quickly.
(1st S.L., 1550A/10 to C. in C. Med.)
Following for C's in C. M.E. and Med. from Chiefs of Staff No.209. Ref. C.O.S. No.208. Terms of reference of the Mission are as follows:- "To examine the problem of the air defence of the Delta and to make recommendations thereon to the C's in C. M.E. and to report to Chiefs of Staff on their return".
(1st S.L., 2251A/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Raid.

Night 9/10. 1931 hours 1 raider approached did not cross coast. 0426 hours 5 bombers approached 2 crossed coast. Bombs land, no damage. Special Wellington shipping search

Air Operations.

sighted 2 cruisers CONDOTTIERI A Class 2057 hours and shadowed till 0151 hours 325° Marsala 52 miles course 345° 20 knots. 7 Swordfish 5 F.A.A. aircraft despatched attack, meanwhile Cruisers had turned about at great speed escaped attack. Bad weather Benghazi. 21 Wellingtons highly successful attack store depots west fort Curgi Tripoli in bad weather and rain. 2335 to 0520 hours. Bombs from 7000 to 1000 feet destroying at least 6 large buildings causing black smoke and continuous explosions over whole target area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1645/10.)

/Libya ...

MOST SECRET

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Libya. Military Situation Reports.
(C. in C. M.E., 1735/10, 2355/10.)
See Lion Copy.

A/C Search. Ref. my 1226B/9. Special Wellington will again search. Same surface forces as yesterday are at one hour's notice and if Wellington reports enemy has not turned back as before when W/T silence is broken by Wellington Swordfish will proceed to attack. Malta force will then proceed to intercept.
(V.A. Malta, 1912B/10 to C. in C. Med.)

Situation Report 174. Patrol has been maintained north of Derna by one Cruiser and two Destroyers nightly without enemy forces being encountered. C.S.15 bombarded Derna and merchant ships in harbour at 0800 today 10th at close range. Force was attacked by T/B and dive-bombing aircraft throughout forenoon apparently without damage and is now returning Alexandria.
2. Tobruk effectively relieved and land supply route now open. Shelling of town has ceased but bombing continues and minelaying raids suspected. CHANTALA sunk with upperworks above water and back broken. FLAMINGO has arrived Tobruk considerable damage to machinery but able to be towed.
3. APHIS successfully bombarded road 13 miles west of Tobruk with object of harassing enemy movements for 2½ hours night 6th/7th and for 1 hour night 7th/8th. Fire started first night. M.T. and tanks damaged second night.
4. Greek destroyers have patrolled nightly off Bardia without incident.
5. My 2137/7 para. 1 BRECONSHIRE has arrived Alexandria.
6. Forces B and K operated West of Malta night 9th/10th but no interception reported.
7. R/C A/C report three sightings of U-Boats on 8th and one on 9th in area between Crete and Cyrenaica but attacks unsuccessful.
8. TALISMAN attacked enemy destroyer steering S.E. at 2130/8 in 038° 00' N. 020° 28' E. Torpedoes ran under and TALISMAN engaged with guns, scoring four hits.
9. TRUANT reports hits on Italian merchant ship RAMB Class entering Suda Bay 0848/7.
(C. in C. Med., 2018B/10 to Admty.)

/LISBOA ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wedensday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LISBOA (German)	Arrived 10th, leaves Thursday night for Valencia. (Alicante T.H.I. 2145/10 to Admty., repeated S.O.I. Gib.)
SULLBERG, OTTO LEONHARDT. (German)	S.S. SULLBERG left 6th Gandia. Arrived 7th Burriana load oranges for Marseilles. OTTO LEONHARDT sails tonight 10th Iron Ore Genoa. (Valencia T.H.I. 2300/10 to D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

PRABHAVATI sunk.

Indian auxiliary PRABHAVATI and 2 barges were engaged and sunk in error by GLASGOW about 200 miles S.W. of Bombay at 7.30 p.m./8, barges having been mistaken for U-boats.
(D.O.R. 10/12.)

IPSWICH.

Your 1835/6. IPSWICH arrived Vizagapatam 4th.
(S.O.I. Colombo 0214Z/10 to Admty.)

WARTENFELS (German)

Information graded B 3 obtained from Master of French SURCOUF now at Aden indicates WARTENFELS was at Diego Suarez on 13/11. Expressed opinion that vessel is in bad condition, not armed and without cargo. Considered only fit for coastal work with French and not German crew.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1146Z/10 to S.O.(I) Capetown, N.O.I.C. Mauritius.)
N.I.D. Comment:- WARTENFELS arrived Diego Suarez in March, 1941, after escaping from Massawa. Was reported to be loading Hides in August, and in October was reported at Tamatave loading Graphite, Mica and Leather. Was rumoured to have left Tamatave on 24/10 for unknown destination but in view of above this may have been for Diego Suarez to transfer cargo. As ship has not been in a home port since June 1939, her condition is probably as described above.

QUEEN MARY.

Your 2338/7. Presume intention to dock QUEEN MARY at Singapore now abandoned. Should she be sailed forthwith for Australia?
(C. in C. E.I., 1236Z/10 to Admty.)

Shipping.

Policy. (1st S.L. 1915A/10) See China.

Practice Ammunition.

A.M.1810A/4. Approved to expend service ammunition for practice at your discretion.
(D.G.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(W) 2047A/10 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Movements. Singapore arrival 10th TENEDOS, EXETER Oiler WAR SIRDAR. Arrival and departure U.S. destroyer J.D. EDWARDS, U.S. destroyer WHIPPLE, U.S. destroyer EDSALL and U.S. destroyer ALDEN in company with STRONGHOLD.
(S.O.(I) Singapore 0907Z/10.)

Enemy Units. My 1501/9. One aircraft carrier and 15 transports sighted by aircraft off Songkhla 0?30Z/9 (as decoded). By D/F, one aircraft carrier vicinity Pulo Condore about 1300Z/9.
(C.S. Singapore 0401/10 to Admty.)

Hong Kong. Report on military operations and air raids. (G.O.C., Hong Kong, 0930/10 to C. in C. Far East.) See Lion Copy.

PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE, sunk. Tokyo broadcast 1435 (G H) 10/12. PRINCE OF WALES bombed and sunk. REPULSE bombed and sunk. They were sighted 1000 G H and Japanese planes went into (?action) scoring direct hit(s). REPULSE sank in a few minutes. PRINCE OF WALES struck but moved away but hampered by Japanese planes and listed to port. With additional hits PRINCE OF WALES sank at 1245 (G H).
(C.O.I.C. Singapore 1137Z/10 to Admty.)

Japanese Account. The naval section of Japanese Imperial H.Q. made the following announcement (according to Reuter):- The Japanese Fleet had been watching the movements of the British Fleet, and particularly of the two battleships, from the outbreak of hostilities. A Japanese submarine on the afternoon of Dec.9 discovered the British Fleet, which was on the move. Thereupon Japanese S/Ms collaborating with the air arm, set out to seek it. At 11.30 a.m. on Dec.10 a Japanese submarine found the British Fleet off Kuantan. Immediately Japanese aircraft launched an attack. REPULSE was bombed and sank immediately, at 2.29 p.m. (6.29 a.m. B.S.T.) with a great explosion. PRINCE OF WALES was hit and with a list to port attempted to escape; but she finally sank at 2.50 p.m. (6.50 a.m. B.S.T.) with a great explosion.
(The Times 11/12/41.)

PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE, sunk. C. in C. Eastern Fleet, Adml. Sir Tom Phillips and Capt. Leach are missing. Capt. Tennant and a large number survivors now arriving in three destroyers. (C.O.S. Singapore 1555Z/10 to Admty.)
Statement by Capt. L.H. Bell, Captain of Fleet on landing. (C. in C. E.F., 1701Z/10 to Admty.)
[redacted]

/Enemy ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Enemy Intelligence. B.A.D., 1213R/10, 1217R/10. See America and West Indies.

Minefield. Rhio Strait Southern entrance chart number 2413, a protective minefield has been established, area is enclosed as follows, (A) on the North by parallel 00° 45' N. (B) on the East by meridian 104° 30' 30" E. (C) on the South by parallel 00° 42' (D) on the West by meridian 104° 25' E. (R.A. Malaya, 1147Z/10 to China Station.)

Ocean Island. Wellington reports Aircraft attacking Ocean Is. 0105Z/9. (C/S Singapore 1333Z/10 to Adty.)

PRINCE OF WALES REPULSE. My 1555. Capt. L.H. Bell, Capt. of Fleet, has been interviewed on landing. His account of todays proceeding indicates that the C. in C's intentions were, up to about 1700/9 to attack transport off Songhkla, relying on surprise failing the provision of fighter protection which in fact could not be provided. Up to that time he had not as far as he knew been located by air R/C owing to low clouds. At that time clouds cleared and three Japanese A/Cs were sighted. As a result of this he decided to return at full speed to Singapore. About midnight he received information that a seaborne attack was developing on Kuantan and decided to investigate and attack. On arrival (of) at Kuantan 0800 nothing was in sight but he had passed (corrupt group) down a tug with possible landing craft in tow and so turned back to deal with them. It was approx. at this time that first attack by H.L.B took place. Attack was well carried out at about 11,000 feet and hits scored abreast main mast of REPULSE. This was followed by air attack by 9 (?torpedo/ bombing aircraft) on PRINCE OF WALES. Attack was pushed well home and skilfully carried out. One if not 2 hits were scored and extensive flooding caused, 2 engine rooms being put out of action and speed reduced to 12 knots. A second attack by 9 torpedo bombing aircraft on PRINCE [illegible] further 2 hits. A third T/B [illegible] 9 aircraft, but this [illegible] hits and she turned [illegible] few minutes. A H.L.B attack [illegible] OF WALES from [illegible] ably 1000 lb. [illegible] was obt[illegible] T.B attack [illegible] rried out [illegible] One more [illegible] ship heeled [illegible] to por[illegible] sized [illegible] minutes. Captain Bell [illegible] skill wi[illegible] ich all attacks [illegible] carri[illegible] and deter[illegible] with which th[illegible] ere pres[illegible] home. Abo[illegible] craft were sho[illegible]n. By direction of [illegible] G. Layton fa[illegible] ding

/enquiri[illegible]

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE contd.

enquiry will be started tomorrow to obtain fullest possible information.
(C. in C. E.F. 1701Z/10 to Admty.)

Situation Report.

1. Malaya. 2. Hong Kong.
(C. in C. Far East, 1652/10 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Demolition, Stonecutters W/T.

Intend to demolish Stonecutters W/T Station within few hours and will use emergency Station in lieu.
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 1755Z/10 to Admty.)

Merchant shipping policy.

In view of the naval and military situation in the Far East the immediate policy as regards merchant shipping is as follows:
(a) Withdraw all British and Allied, other than U.S.A. and Dutch shipping out of Malay, Borneo, Sumatra area to Australia or Indian ports, and shipping from the Philippines to Australian Ports.
(b) Ships with cargo useful to war effort in Malaya to be unloaded before sailing.
(c) All loaded tankers should proceed to Australia in preference to India. Empty and coasting tankers should be sailed to India if possible.
(d) No shipping should be retained for running outward convoys as it is not yet clear how this is to be effected.
2. The Policy outlined above is not intended to prevent you taking such advantage of shipping opportunities as may still be possible to increase the stocks of commodities for Malaya.
3. Our plans in the past have allowed for monthly convoys from Colombo and Australia to Singapore. These plans were based on conditions which do not obtain at the present time. Request your views as to the best method of running these convoys, particularly as regards the route to be used and escort that will be required.
4. Dutch Naval Commander in Chief should be informed and advised to adopt similar policy.
(1st S.L. 1915A/10 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet repeated C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., B.A.D.)

Command.

Personal for Vice Adm. Layton.
Until, it is known whether Adm. Sir Tom Phillips is one of the survivors you are to carry out the duties of C. in C. Eastern Fleet, and have discretion whether to fly your flag on shore or afloat.
(1st S.L. 2250A/10 to C.O.S., Eastern Fleet.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Intelligence Martinique Cayenne.

Com 10 reports A/C R/C reveals unusual activity Martinique including funnel smoke from vessels in harbour and work about A/C. P.A.A. representative reports replacement of officials by more loyal Vichy supporters and concentration of war material at Cayenne. Further information may be expected.
(B.A.D. 0005R/10.)

Japanese Operations.

Summary (1) Philippines. (2) Guam. (3) Wake. (Rafdel 0128/10 to Airwhit). See Lion Copy.

S.C.53.

Admty. 1302A/9. GOTHAM S.O. Escort S.C.53 reports MERIDIAN lost touch with. Rounded up stragglers of S.C.53 in thick fog at 1730/10/11 8 in charge of CHAMBLY. EMPIRE GANNET also lost touch at about same time. Nothing known of CRUSADER who was not seen at any time. (Ends) Further enquiry being made from CHAMBLY and ORILLIA.
(C.C.N.F. 0351Z/10 to Admty., U.S.C.N.O.)
S.C.53. Admty. reports MERIDIAN and CRUSADER still unaccounted for. Can you give any information regarding date straggling or any other relevant information?
(C.C.N.F., 0352Z/10 to CHAMBLY, ORILLIA.)

Dispositions of Sea Hurricanes.

Chief of Air Staff R.C.A.F. desires to retain 15 Sea Hurricanes at Dartmouth, N.S, thereby releasing equivalent number of Kittyhawks for urgent fighter requirements west coast Canada arising out of present situation in Pacific. C.A.S. believes this can be done so as not to adversely affect Sea Hurricane project. 45 Hurricanes now awaiting shipment from factory. 4 others at Dartmouth. The 15 concerned would come from factory. Strongly emphasize that the present grave position fully warrants this request. Please advise.
(C.N.S., Canada, 0444Z/10 to 1st S.L.)

BEARN.

U.S. Naval Observer reports BEARN leaves 10th for cruise to Guadaloupe, Les Saints and coast of Martinique.
(B.A.D., 0705R/10 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

ARNDALE.

Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. S.A. proceed to (?patrol) line between the following: 026° S. 020° W. and 025° 30' S. 021° W.
(R.A.S.A.D., 0731Z/10 to ARNDALE.)

/TULIP ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

TULIP — Kingston departure TULIP in accordance with my 1435R/30.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 0825R/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ALCANTARA. — C. in C. A.W.I. 1807N/4 and B.A.R.M. Washington's 1546R/2. Date Monday 15/12.
(ALCANTARA 1031Q/10 to B.A.R.M.)
Departure ALCANTARA Newport News, E.T.A. Cape Henry 0800 zone plus 5/15/12.
(N.C.S.O. Port of Spain, 2041Q/10 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE. — Your 1452/9. Approved. Exercise with Trinidad is to be arranged direct with N.O.I/C Trinidad. CLARKIA should accompany INDOMITABLE to Trinidad or may be sailed independently whichever is more convenient.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1031Q/10 to INDOMITABLE.)
A.M.1809A/7. On completion of visit to Trinidad C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to sail INDOMITABLE for Durban direct. 2. C. in C. S.A. is requested to arrange onward route within his Command.
(1st S.L. 2125A/10 to C. in C. A.W.I., C. in C. S.A.)

Trans-Pacific Shipping. — My 1912Q/8 and Admty. 1343A/9. Request immediate information when you consider situation permits Trans-Pacific Shipping proceeding via New Zealand.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1041Q/10 to Navy Office, Wellington repeated Admiralty etc.)
Your 1031/9 (N.T.in W.R.) British and Allied Trans-Pacific shipping should not be released pending further instructions. (2) In view of your 1725/9 ships for West Coast of South America may now sail.
(C..in C. A.W.I., 1042Q/10 to C.S.A. Panama.)
Re suspension of Trans-Pacific route via Panama. (D.T.D. 2045A/10, no copy in W.D.) Cancel my 2045A/10. (D.T.D. 1227A/11 to B.A.D.)

St. Lucia, Black-Out and Navigation Lights. — Following has been received by O.C., U.S. Marines St. Lucia and Antigua from Cdr. of Caribbean Naval Coastal Frontier (begins). Be prepared for strong Axis effort against Navy Shipping and raid on Coast. Co-operate with Army and civilian authority. Black Out. Discontinue all lights and radio aids to Navigation. (Ends). Governor wishes to know if action should be taken re Navigation Lights. U.S. Authorities press for Lights to be extinguished.
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1101Q/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Your 1101Q/10 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

St. Lucia, Black Out and Navigation Lights contd.

Your 11010/10. As it is of paramount importance to maintain flow of shipping without undue loss by stranding, lighthouses are not to be extinguished at present. Policy is being discussed with Washington.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 15430/10 to R.O. St. Lucia.)
R.N.O. St. Lucia's 11010/10 is being passed to you as it is essential that flow of shipping should continue unhampered. Suggest that U.S. Policy of general extinction of lighthouses should be reconsidered.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 16530/10 to B.A.D.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Manila appreciation dated 9/12 and repeated to Cincaf, Cincpac and Hawaii. From traffic analysis of several days there is an association of the following:- Second Fleet, Third Fleet, Southern Expeditionary Fleet. Units of combined air and base force. All of this Group is to westward of Corregidor D/F Station. Traffic from this Group indicates intensive action. Fourth and Fifth Fleets, Base Force Units and Submarine Force may comprise forces to Eastward of Corregidor D/F Station. Traffic very light from this Group. Combatant ship using Secret Call now bears 018° from Corregidor D/F Station. May be AKAGI. Jaluit traffic very heavy today. One translation plus normal traffic routeing indicates Jaluit to be H/F D/F and intercept station. P/L report indicates part of Dairen air strength is 15 boats.
(B.A.D. 1213R/10 to Admty.)
The Flagship of Southern expeditionary force bears in line with Saigon from Corregidor D/F station. An aircraft carrier probably the RYUJO bears 250°. An unidentified flagship suspected is that of second or third fleet has same bearing. Manila appreciation dated 8/12 and repeated to C. in C. A.F., C. in C. P.A.C. and Hawaii.
(B.A.D., 1217R/10 to Admty.)
W.R. Note: Both above messages have been passed to C.O.I.S. Singapore for information.

Shipping Routes.

Your 1927Z/9. (N.T. in W.D.) (Routeing of ships for Australia and New Zealand). Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1258A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/"Q" Messages ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

"Q" Messages U.S. Ports. We are beginning to receive from C.S.A's instructions for entering U.S.A. ports, swept channels etc. Until "Q" arrangements for U.S.A. are completed intend to issue them as QJA or QJC messages as applicable. Do you concur.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1449Z/10 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1449Z/10, concur.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1613Q/10 to N.S.H.Q.)

Norwegian Ships. Your 2212Z/8. Confirm Norwegian VILLANGER arrived Lourenco Marques 5/12. Norwegian ELIN K sailed Port Stanley 23/11, due Durban 8/12, arrival not yet reported.
(D.T.D. 1508A/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

O.N.45. Designated escort convoy O.N.45. E.C.F. HUGHES (senior) GLEAVES, LANSDALE, MADISON, STURTEVANT.
(Opnav, 1512/10 to Admty.)

NASTURTIUM. C.C.N.F's 1916Z/9. Commitments at Halifax do not allow NASTURTIUM being refitted there. Request information if NASTURTIUM can be taken in hand at an American port and if so date she should arrive. B.A.D. pass P/L copy to C.N.A.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1531Z/10 to B.A.R.M.)

PRINCE DAVID. On completion of gun trials PRINCE DAVID is to be sailed for Esquimalt with all despatch via Panama Canal and San Diego. 2. After arrival Esquimalt PRINCE DAVID is to come under the orders of C.O.P.C. 3. C.N.A. is to request that passage of Canal may be expedited and to arrange fuelling at Canal and San Diego.
4. C.O.A.C. is to report route S. of A. and E.T.A. Colon.
(N.S.H.Q. 1556Z/10 to C.O.A.C.)
Your 1556Z/10 PRINCE DAVID complete with provisions and has embarked stores for Bermuda. Propose PRINCE DAVID sail for Bermuda p.m./12. Carry out gun trials on arrival a.m./14 sailing for Colon immediately stores have been landed. E.T.A. Colon p.m./18.
(C.O.A.C. 2059Z/10 to N.S.H.Q.)

MARSDALE. My 1752A/2. C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to sail MARSDALE 16/12 for area B X 2, 38° N. to 39° N. 42° W. to 45° W.
(S.O.W.P. 1604A/10 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, Repeated Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., S.O. Force H., MARSDALE, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/BAHRAM ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

BAHRAM (French)	Arr. 10th. (St. Thomas, 1610/10 to D. of S.T.)
Intelligence for Canadian Govt.	Whilst I fully realise need for security makes desirable most limited promulgations of dispositions and movements, when I am called upon to furnish my government with appreciations it would be of great assistance if I could be supplied with at least some general information regarding strength of forces in the Pacific. (C.N.S. Canada, 1633/10 to Admty. rep. B.A.D.)
NASTURTIUM.	Your 1513/10 (?1531/10 intended) NASTURTIUM can be accepted in U.S.A. Yard will be given later (see 1740/11). Ship can be received approx. 20/12. Job number S.237. (B.A.R.M., 1742R/10 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Japanese Attacks.	Operational Summary, Philippines, Malaya, Hong Kong, South Pacific, Panama, San Francisco, French W. Indies, Latin America. (Rafdel 1800/10 to Airwhit, recd. from Air Min. 0110/11.) See Lion Copy.
Tunis, Bizerta.	Meter Tunis. 8/12 B.2. French have been making Naval, Military and Air preparations. Tanks guns and munitions have been sent South. A/A pits are being constructed surrounding Tunis airport. Further mines have been laid and a net placed across the gateway of the lake at Bizerta. Following Naval Units are at Bizerta - Destroyers SIMOUNE, TEMPETE, TRAMONTANE, TYPHON - Torpedo Boats BOMBARDE, POMONE, IPHIGENIE - Submarines CAIMAN, PHOQUE, ESPAIRON, DAUPHIN, MARSOUIN, SOUFFLEUR, CIRCE, CALYPSO, NAUTILUS, SAPHIR, TRUQUOISE. (B.A.D., 1801R/10 to Admty.)
Casablanca Intelligence.	Meter Casablanca 7/12 (A.1.) Following French ships arrived 30/11 from Dakar - ERIDAN, PROVIDENCE, CONDE, PORTHOS. 2/12 from Oran - IRELANDE, BONIFACIO, KERMARIA, BLANCHE II, PARAME. 4/12 from Dakar via Safi - CEVENNES, OUED-FEZ, AUVERGNE, from Dakar direct - PORT DE BOUC, THESEE, TROPIQUE. With exception of PORT DE BOUC and THESEE in ballast, all ships were fully loaded, have not unloaded any cargo and were still present 7/12. TROPIQUE and MONTAIGNE have sailed for unknown destinations. (B.A.D., 1803R/10 to Admty., S.O.I's Freetown, Gibr.)

/Shipping ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Shipping Panama.

My 1805/7 not to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. Following British merchant ships now at anchor at Balboa ANTILOCHUS, WAIPAWA, LANARKSHIRE, KAITUNA. No British merchant vessels have returned, viz. WAIWERA, FORRESBANK, sailed 4th 6th respectively. (C.S.A. Panama 1926/10 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc.)

Coastal Shipping.

Navy Dept. has authorized resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of trans-Pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to southward. (B.A.D., 1947R/10 to Admty.)

U.S. Navy Policy DIOMEDE.

U.S. Chief of Naval Operations has ordered WPL 46 in effect as regards Japanese. Interpretation as affecting British Warships and Merchant Ships is as follows: (2) Atlantic Ocean is not affected at present. WPL 52 remain in operation. (3) In Pacific area as defined in ABC-1, U.S. C.N.O. assumes Peninsula as in that report. Interim arrangement of routeing of merchant shipping as in B.A.D. Washington's 1307/9. (4) Consequent para.(3) above, withdrawal of British Naval Forces is expected from Pacific area except Canadian Coastal Zone, in accordance with para. 20 of Annex iii of ABC-1. In view of intelligence leading to movements reported in B.A.D. Washington 1003/10th (not to all addressees) U.S. C.N.O. would appreciate temporary co-operation of DIOMEDE to extent she is effective. If this is approved request DIOMEDE may co-operate as necessary with Commandant Naval District and S.O. U.S. S.E. Pacific Force.
(B.A.D., 2001R/10 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q., etc.)
Arrival Balboa 1473[illegible]/10 DIOMEDE.
(C.S.A. Panama, 1701/10 to Admty.)

PRINCE class Auxiliary Cruisers.

Your 2200/8. Following is a repetition of my 2111/19/10 (N.T.in W.R.) begins:- General R.C.N. Repeated Admiralty, Opnav, B.A.D. Washington, C. in C. A. and W.I., C. in C. E.F. From N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. In future the ships of the PRINCE Class will be referred to as Auxiliary Cruisers not armed Merchant Cruisers (Ends).
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2041Z/10 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

/DIDO ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

DIDO. Request reply to my 1842Q/6 enquiring whether DIDO should proceed direct to Gibraltar on completion of working up at Bermuda 12/12. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2122Q/10 to Admty.)

French Ships, Martinique. Cinclant has issued orders as follows. Alert as to French ships at Martinique. Commander Task Force 2 send detachment at once towards Culebra area to include 2 cruisers, one of them BROOKLYN. Move detachments from Argentia towards Bermuda. Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier and Commander Task Force 3 make appropriate dispositions. General charge of operations placed under Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier. (Opnav, 2157Z/10 to Admty. rep. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

Australia.

Reported Nauru Landing, (cancelled) Following information received from Nauru Radio. Landing by enemy troops has taken place here, 1753Z/9/12. (A.C.N.B. 0132Z/10 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M.) Cancel my 0132Z/10. (A.C.N.B. 0458Z/10 to Admty. etc.)

Australian Lights. W.F.129. All ships warned that Australian Coastal Navigation Lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice. (Melbourne, 0231Z/10.)

Lighting Restrictions. Q.F.A.64 A.C.B.0213. Stage 1 of lighting restrictions in force New South Wales and in Queensland southwards of Sandy Cape (Q). Radio Beacons in Bass Strait are complying except when requested by signal. (A.C.N.B. 0606Z/10 to all concerned with Q.F.A. Messages.)

/U.S.14 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia - contd.

U.S.14. My 0429Z/15/11 to Navy Board, Wellington, and D. of S.T. only. Present intention is not to run U.S.14.
(A.C.N.B. 1157Z/10 to N.Z.N.B.)

Shipping. Policy. (1st S.L. 1915A/10) See China.

Nauru
Ocean I. My 1652Z/9. Enemy aircraft carried out further attack on Nauru 0034Z/10th December. Nauru and Ocean Island have put into execution plans for demolishing Phosphate loading gear.
(A.C.N.B. 1249Z/10 to Admty. C. in C. F.E.Fleet, C. in C. E.I., C.O.I.S., N.Z.N.B., C.Z.M.)

New
Caledonia. State of defences for new aerodromes.
(Consul, Noumea, 2300Z/10 to Admty.)
See Lion Copy.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.12.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

S/M's painted brown.

A number of Japanese Submarines have been sighted painted Chocolate Brown.
(C.O.S.Singapore 1013Z/10 to Adty., C. in C.E.F., Cdre.Malaya, C. in C.E.I., A.C.N.B.,N.Z.N.B., S.O. West Indies Force.

Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1341A/10, 1344A/10.)

1925.

At 1925 G.M.T. German U-boat made enemy sight report approx., bearing from Gibraltar 290° class 3.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2113A/10, to N.A.Stn.)
Your 2113A/10. Sighting report was of convoy N.W. of Ireland.
(D.D.I.C.0122A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Submarines Attacked.

By LADY MADELEINE, 28/11.

At 1947A/28/11 O.N.40 in 59° 28' N., 15° 15' W., course 347°. Weather conditions calm, moon to southward. H.M. trawler LADY MADELEINE, 2000 yards on port bow on convoy, detected H.E. on port quarter. After turning towards, periscope and top of C/T was sighted and attempt made to ram. U-boat dived and after passing over it LADY MADELEINE gained asdic contact. First attack was made dropping five charges set to 100 feet, contact being held down to 100 yards. Asdic contact was then lost but on returning to investigate periscope and C/T was sighted distant one cable and fire opened with 4 '' gun. Two rounds were fired, one of which fell close, and a further attempt was made by LADY MADELEINE to ram. U-boat was inside her turning circle and passed close down starboard side practically stopped five charge pattern was dropped by eye set to 50 feet. After explosion of this pattern, U-boat was observed to disappear at a sharp angle stern first. LADY MADELEINE suffered superficial damage from explosion of shallow charges which put electrics and asdic out of action. Repairs were effected in ten minutes and nothing more was seen or heard of U-boat. The convoy was not attacked.
(Capt. D., Greenock, 1822/10, to C. in C.W.A., rep. Admty.,etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

At 1451 today the U.S. Naval Secretary ordered the execution of W.P.L. 46 against Germany and Italy in addition to Japan. Italy and Germany declared war on the U.S.A. today. Subsequently, the U.S.A. declared war against Germany and Italy. The operations of the U.S. Fleet, including escort of H.X. convoys are to be continued as at present. It is proposed to modify the dividing line in the Atlantic between the U.S. and British areas. The U.S. C.N.O. requests that the operations of the A. and W.I. Squadron in the Atlantic may continue temporarily. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping diverted to the Cape or committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged Germany, Italy and Japan today signed a Three-Power Agreement for co-operation during and after the war.

Home Commands.

S.B.N.O. Archangel is having difficulty in inducing the Russian Naval authorities to provide icebreakers at Archangel for ships of Q.P. and P.Q. convoys.

The force for Operation "Kitbag" sailed from Sullom Voe this morning.

Mining.

Operation S.N. 25.

MENESTHEUS and SCOTT returned to Port Z.A. this morning from laying mines N.W. of the Butt of Lewis.

It is considered that the recent mining of the swept channels between H.3. Buoy and Sheringham light buoy has probably been carried out by E-boats. C. in C. Nore has arranged for destroyer patrols to be carried out on nights, which are suitable for E-boat operations. C. in C. Nore has asked for 3 M/S groups to be sent from Aberdeen and 2 from Dundee, to reinforce patrols in the Nore Command. (See also 12/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

At 0940Z today a civil aircraft reported a medium sized merchant vessel in 43° 7' N. 10° 7' W. steering 240° at 12 knots. HERMIONE left Gibraltar at 1916 to search, and patrol by Catalina has been arranged for tomorrow. It was later considered that this was a Spanish ship which sailed from Gijon with navicert 10/12 for Jamaica.

At 1558Z today a civil aircraft reported a large camouflaged merchant vessel in 39° 20' N. 9° 30' W. steering north at 10 knots.

Patrol vessel ROSABELLE was sunk at approx. 0345 today in 35° 59' N. 5° 17' W. by unexplained explosion. LADY SHIRLEY, last seen on patrol in the Straits at 0305A today has disappeared without trace and it is thought that both ships were torpedoed. Visibility in the Straits was very bad last night. Submarines were sighted on the surface by aircraft in 94° Europa Point 66 at 0915A today.

Mediterranean.

Intruder aircraft bombed Malta last night. No damage was caused.

2 Blenheims today made a ~~successful dawn attack~~ on shipping in Catania harbour. Hits are claimed on two ships of 6,000 and 5,000 tons, the former of which was set on fire.

TALISMAN p.m. today sank a 15,000 ton merchant ship with silhouette similar to VULCANIA escorted by a destroyer steering East at 17 knots in 36° 23' N. 20° 33' E.

HOBART is to be sailed for Colombo pending decision as to her destination.

/Libya.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Libya and Western Desert.

8 Wellingtons bombed shipping and wharves at Benghazi in the early hours of today.

There was a combined bombing and minelaying raid on Tobruk from 0330 to 0530 today. No damage is reported but in addition to mines swept and self detonated it is believed that 3 G. type mines were laid in the harbour. It is believed that mines were also laid in the harbour on 6/12 and 8/12.

China.

Admiral Layton's policy to meet the present situation is to hold as ~~much of Malaya as possible~~ to secure Singapore as a base for the Eastern Fleet, to keep trade moving, and to effect the maximum damage by air and submarine on the enemy. He asks for all possible reinforcement of S/M's, minesweepers and destroyers, and air reinforcements. Battleships should not come further than Colombo until accompanied by cruisers, destroyers and aircraft.

Hong Kong.

At 0100 today a long range gun shelled the town and Hong Kong Island for 2 hours. The shelling had chiefly nuisance value but there were 3 hits on the Military Hospital, and the North Shore dockyard was badly damaged and the ordnance depot hit 5 times. Stonecutters W/T Station was hit by a bomb. Stonecutters and Kowloon Dockyard were evacuated and naval establishments were demolished. The evacuation of Kowloon by the military began at dusk. All merchant ships have been scuttled.

Malaya Burma and Siam.

EXETER left Singapore today for Colombo via Sunda Strait.

The enemy are reported to have landed at Chumpore or Jumbhorn (presumably Chumporn on W. side of Gulf of Siam in 10° 30' N.). Tavoy Aerodrome was bombed at 0945 G.M.T.

/All.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China-Contd.

All serviceable aircraft had to be withdrawn from northern Malaya by today and bomber effective was temporarily reduced to some 6 Blenheims. The Japanese at once switched their major effort from attack on aerodromes to shipping and the port of Penang which was heavily bombed this morning, the dock side area being covered by pattern bombing. Alor Star Aerodrome was demolished.

Philippines. Army aircraft claim to have secured a hit on a battleship of the HARUNA class and naval aircraft secured at least one hit on a battleship of the KONGO class. There was a further air raid today on the Phillippines, Cavite and shipping in harbour being amongst the main targets.

Pobra raided. It is reported in a N.E.I. army communique that Australian aircraft based on the N.E.I. have attacked the Japanese air base on the island of Pobra (between the Celebes and Palau).

Midway Wake and Guam. It is reported that Wake Island has been attacked four times by aircraft and once by light naval units during the past 48 hours but is still in U.S. hands (1800/11), as also is Midway. There was one air raid today on Wake. It is officially announced in Washington that a Japanese cruiser and a destroyer have been sunk off Wake Island. The U.S. Navy was still in communication with Midway Island at 2358/11 Pacific time. At 2358/11 Pacific time no communication with Guam could be obtained by the U.S. Navy.

America and West Indies.

All ships are warned that U.S. east coast and Caribbean lights controlled by U.S. are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.

/At.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies-Contd.

At 1507Z today N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reported that the U.S. C.N.O. had ordered resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of Trans-Pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes passing well to the Southward. (On 15/12, however, Atlantic Shipping was still being held up apparently by order of U.S. Naval Authorities).
All ships for the Far East are to be routed east of Christmas Island, south of Samoa, Suva and south around Australia. Instructions in this sense were given by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to N.C.S.O's west coast of U.S.A. and Canada, and were approved by C. in C. A.W.I. on 14/12. These instructions were amended on 14/12 and ships were routed to Wellington for further instructions, passing south of Chatham Islands. On 15/12, however, N.Z.N.B. proposed in order to avoid congestion at Wellington and to save time on passage, that ships bound for ports beyond New Zealand having sufficient speed and endurance to be routed south of New Zealand to their destinations or to ports to which their endurance can take them, but the U.S. did not approve.
The U.S. authorities report that Admiral Hoover is ordering the surrender of all naval and military armaments in Martinique immediately, otherwise the islands will be bombed. (This ultimatum had apparently not been delivered by 1115Q/13 but Admiral Roberts had informed the French authorities that any ship leaving the French islands would be bombed.)
U.S. Naval forces are patrolling in the Lesser Antilles with orders to capture or destroy all French ships that may attempt to escape or take offensive action.
S.S. BENCLEUCH was on fire today and sank at 0615Z/12 in 53° 10' N. 38° 0' W. Sabotage unit inserted at the port of sailing is suspected.

New Zealand.

All ships are warned that New Zealand coastal navigation lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

New Zealand-Contd.

U.S. Naval authorities report that the Japanese are using off the coast of Honolulu miniature 50 ft. S/M's carrying 4 torpedoes, with a crew of two and a small range, evidently launched from a ship. One has been captured off the coast of Hawaii.

U-Boat Campaign.

Attack on S.C.57. 3 ships sunk.

S.S. STAR OF LUXOR, KURDISTAN and KIRNWOOD in Convoy S.C.57 were torpedoed last night and sank in 57° 3' N. 16° 38' W.

Italian U-boat sunk.

FARNDALE sank an Italian U-boat at 0430B/11 in 32° 9' N. 25° 19' E. and took prisoners 6 officers and 47 ratings. The U-boat was carrying evacuees from Bardia, including a General who was drowned.

S/M's off Gilbert Isles.

It is reported that S/M's were off Gilbert Isles course south at 0135 G.M.T. today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M/S Trawlers for Nore Command.

In order to reinforce patrols in Nore Command request you will sail the following M/S trawler groups to Humber. From Dundee 34th and 41st Groups. From Aberdeen 12th, 19th and 77th Groups. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent. (A.C.N.S. H., 1908A/11)

Co-Operation with U.S.A.

U.S.A. Atlantic Forces.

C.N.O. has ordered W.P.L.52 cancelled and W.P.L. 46 brought into force in all areas against Germany and Italy in addition to Japan.
(ii) Operations of U.S. Fleet including escort of H.X. convoys are to be continued as at present.
(iii) Proposed to modify dividing line in Atlantic between U.S. and British areas has been forwarded to Spenavo. Proposal is for line to follow longitude 26° W., from pole to pole except British area extending to 040° W., between lat. 20° N., and lat. 43° N.
(iv) Until change of dividing line is effective U.S.C.N.O. understands operations of S.A.D. to continue at present under British strategic direction.
(v) U.S.C.N.O. requests operations of A.W.I. squadron in Atlantic may continue temporarily. (B.A.D. Washington, 1221R/11 to Admty).

Movements.

FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, FORESTER.

FAULKNOR with FORESIGHT, FORESTER proceed 1600 today passing through 058° 45' N., 007° W., thence through Reykjanes Passage to Hvalfjord.
2. On arrival you will act screen for RODNEY. (R.A.D., H.F., 0150A/11).

DUKE OF YORK.

Scapa arrival DUKE OF YORK, MATABELE, FAULKNOR, and FORESIGHT in company. (A.C.O.S., 1005A/11).
Scapa departure for Clyde DUKE OF YORK. E.T.A. 1300A/12. FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE in company. (A.C.O.S., 1647A/11).

P.35.

Amend my 1533A/5/12 as follows:-
Para (1) Delete 1700A/11 and substitute 0100A/12.
Para (2) Delete 2359A/14 and substitute 1600A/15.
Para (3) Delete 2359A/14 and substitute 1600A/15.
(Capt. S.9., 1109A/11).
Amend my 1545A/5 by deleting 2359A/14/12 wherever such figures and letters occur and substituting therefore 1600A/15/12. (Capt. S.9., 1115A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/P.35....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

P.35 Contd.

P.35 passes through 270° Bishop Rock 7 miles at 0100A/12 thence diving by day through following positions to pass through 043° N., 012° 40' W., at about 1600A/15. Thence southward. (Capt. S.9., 1141A/11).

23rd M/L Flotilla.

Admiralty's 1847A/10. Request 2nd division of 23rd M.L. Flotilla may be sailed for Yarmouth not Harwich. 6th M.L. Flotilla is at present working from Yarmouth and is unlikely to proceed to Harwich until completion of new proposed base at Pinmill.
(C. in C. Nore, 1158A/11).

MANXMAN.

My 1240/9 and MANXMAN 2157/10. Request you sail and route MANXMAN when ready.
(D.D.O.D. M., 1235A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)
Admty 1240A/9. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is to sail MANXMAN when ready at best speed consistent with weather conditions. Via Q.Z.S. 544 to (P) 180° Bishops Rock 10 miles (Q) 048° N., 016° W. (R) 039°, 016° (S) 036°, 009° 30'., thence to Gibraltar. MANXMAN report E.T.A. on reaching 038° N. (C. in C. W.A., 1854A/11)

CLEVELAND.

CLEVELAND is to leave convoy so as to arrive Plymouth 1800. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1330/11)

KENT.

Beacons and lights arranged. A low lying fog extends to Kildin Island and covers Kola inlet liable to persist for further 24 hours. Arrangements have been made for pilot to meet you in 069° 21' N., 033° 55' E., at 1030C/12 in D/F fitted ship and with portable direction finding set. Ship will transmit signal L on 325 kc/s per sec. from this position from 1000C.
2. At your discretion (a) Proceed up harbour to anchorage Paenga Bay with pilot and portable D/F set on board following pilot boat if desired. (b) Transfer passengers to pilot boat for onward transport. In view of recent report U-boat activities vicinity Kiddin Island if unable to enter Kola inlet proceed seawards by route followed for arrival until visibility improves.
3. BRAMBLE LEDA carrying out A/S search during the night between position M.Z. and Kildin Island and may be met. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1629Z/11 to KENT).

/TUNA...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

TUNA. Intend to sail TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR for Scapa at 1700A/13. E.T.A. Scapa 0930A/15. (Capt. S.3., 1651A/11).

PUCKERIDGE. A.M.1336A/7. Intend to sail PUCKERIDGE from Needles 1100/12 for Liverpool routed Q.Z.S. 293 and routed C of D.C.1. thence by standard routes. Speed of advance 18 knots. E.T.A. 1400/13. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1757A/11).

CALIFORNIA, AGAMEMNON. Destination of CALIFORNIA and AGAMEMNON is Clyde. On arrival CALIFORNIA should grant leave in accordance with A.M.1914A/8/11. After disembarking passengers and stores AGAMEMNON should be sailed for Port Z.A. (D.O.D. H., 1835A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

ST. ALBANS. Anticipate ST. ALBANS will be ready to sail 15/12. Request destination. (C. in C. Nore, 2302A/11)

Operations.

SEALION Patrol. You have complied correctly with my 2102C/8. Leave your patrol p.m./11 and return by route previously ordered to arrive at position R one at 1130C/13. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0051C/11 to SEALION).

Unknown Operation. Your 1945/10. Request N.O.I.C. Invergordon be instructed to return crews to Buckie. Further information regarding operation will be communicated lated. (D.C., 0259A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Operation "Kitbag". Operation "Kitbag". Day one is 11/12. (Capt. D.3., 0801A/11 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, P.37).
D. One day today Thursday. Force sails from Sullum Voe about 1000A. C. in C. Rosyth and P.37 informed. (C. in C. H.F., 1227A/11 to F.O.S., Capt. S.9).

/Operation...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Anklet". (PRINCE ALBERT).

Your 1528/10. PRINCE ALBERT should not be sailed until transfer of landing craft to LEOPOLD has been effected.
(V.A.C.T.C., 1026A/11 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
In view of V.A.C.T.C's 1026A/11. Cancel my 1528A/10. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1119A/11).

Unknown Operation.

Your 1945/10 and A.M.2113A/8. In preparation for an operation to be carried out under the orders of C. in C. H.F., approx. 150 Norwegian personnel are being sent to Invergordon Transit camp for temporary accommodation. A proportion of these will be embarked as arranged for in A.M.2113A/8.
2. Norwegian fishing vessels referred to in N.O.I.C. Invergordon's 1631/10 form part of this operation and are proceeding to Invergordon to embark further personnel prior to sailing for Northern waters.
3. Arrangements are being made with W.O. for remaining Norwegian personnel not covered by paras. 1 and 2 to be embarked in the next routine sailing to Shetlands.
(D.O.D. H., 1239A/11 to C. in C. Rosyth).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

NORFOLK sailed 1500. (A.C.I.C., 1607N/11).

Cable-laying by M.L.MACKAY.

Admiralty 1337A/8 and my 1315A/9. M.L.MACKAY and escorts will be ready to sail a.m./12. Master of M.L. MACKAY has given the following seven positions in which repairs are required. Each will need at least two days of fine weather to complete and they must be taken in the following order.
The Trawlers can only be spared with difficulty from escort duties and reliefs cannot be provided. Trawlers will not be able to remain in the vicinity of operations for more than nine days, during which time M.L. MACKAY will be almost entirely inside territorial waters where protection cannot be provided. Propose that Trawlers should escort M.L. MACKAY on passage and should return to Belfast on arrival at position A. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1851A/11 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

A/S Sweep. 4 Whitley on A/S sweep, centre line Butt of Lewis to Kaldadanes, leave Butt of Lewis 0900. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0830/11).

Bombing Operations. On day 10/12 one A/C claimed a direct hit on a Tanker in the mouth of the Ems.
During Night 10/11, no operations took place owing to weather. (H.Q.B.C.0945/11.

Mining.

Bristol Channel. My 0952A/29/11. I propose to resume normal working in the Bristol Channel from 1100/12. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1932A/11)
Exploded red mine 0916A/11 in 203° 4 miles 4½ cables from Nells Point Light Signal Station. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel, 1301A/11).

Thames Estuary. Two S.A. Mines detonated as follows at 1212/10 and 1248/10. Details.
One magnetic mine detonated at 1228/10. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1001/11).

S.N.25 C. Arrival MENESTHEUS and SCOTT. (N.O.I.C. Port Z.A., 1053/11).

KINGORTH. Following an explosion in about 082° Point Lynus 7 miles at 0720A/10 wreckage and boat marked with a name"KINGORTH A 263" was found. It must be presumed that Aberdeen drifter of this name was sunk. No survivors. Probably caused by floating mine. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1056A/11)

Sweeping ahead of Convoys. My 2310A/7. These arrangements will be discontinued after arrival of F.S.71 at 51 buoy on 14/12. (C. in C. Nore, 1301/11).

East Coast searched Channel. M/S Trawler Patrols. Orders for search of Channels twice each night. To come into force at 1200/14 when my 1114A/31/10 is to be cancelled. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1426A/11) See Lion Copy.

Orders for Destroyer Patrol of 2 Destroyers between H.3. Buoy and Sheringham Light Buoy on nights thought suitable for E-boats minelaying. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1830A/11) See Lion Copy.

/Operation...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Operation Q.O.

To establish position A with accuracy it has been decided that on the first day of operation Q.O. the minesweepers will divide into two groups at 53 buoy, one group proceeding to K and running taut wire to A, whilst the other group proceeds to a reference position G.51° 45' N., 1° 57' E., and also runs taut wire to A where the two groups will meet. My No. 0803A/18 of 1st December should therefore be altered as follows. (details). (C. in C. Nore, 2140A/11).

Navigational.

LANGENES Wreck. (Sunk on Night 6/7.)

Your 1626A/11 and my 1146/10 to A.C.O.S. repeated as requested. Faeroese Fishing Vessel LANGENES in progress of salvage by M.L. sunk during recent gale Sat/Sun. 6/7 Dec. has been marked by red flag on oil drum but this is only of a temporary nature and as the vessel lies in Fairway it is submitted that arrangements may be made at the earliest possible moment for her demolition meantime that shipping may be warned. (N.O.I.C. Thurso, 2211/11 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

MACBETH (M/S Trawler).

Following from H.P. W.N. (letters undecipherable) lat. 50° long 31°. Position is critical. Immediate assistance imperative to towing, otherwise must abandon ship.
(Lands End Radio, 1827/11) (C. in C. W.A., 2156A/11 to Admty).
Position of MACBETH at 1827/11, 50° N., 31° W. Immediate assistance required.
(C. in C. W.A., 2218A/11 to PIMPERNEL).

?ST. OLAVES.

Your 1553A/11. Have ports in crews quarters leaking badly. Am remaining during night in Lough Foyle to repair same, thence loading gear.
(?ST. OLAVES, 1940A/11 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Shipping & Convoys.

D.S.19.

D.S.19 will sail Clyde 27.12. SOBIESKI will be used and probably also BANFORA. About 2000 personnel will embark on outward voyage and about 3500 homewards. 150 tons of mail will arrive Greenock, 23/12 for shipment in D.S.19.
(D.of S.T., 0451A/11).

/BATORY....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

BATORY. BATORY is to be used on Trooping Service of about three weeks duration. Sailing date from Clyde will be notified as soon as possible. On outward voyage only about 100 personnel will be embarked, but she may be full on homward voyage. (D. of S.T., 0453A/11).

S.P.11. S.P,.11 cancel owing to weather. (R.N.O. Shoreham, 0700/11)

P.Q.7. Request estimated date of sailing P.Q.7 be signalled as early as possible. (C. in C. H.F., 1101A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

EILDON. Your 1554A/10. Is escort to be continued as far as (c). (HAVELOCK, 1103A/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

UR.1. U.R.1. My 1154A/10. Amended sailing date is 13/12. Codeword "Siege" (C. in C. W.A., 1117A/11)

P.,Q.6. Your 1117A/10. BOTAVON arrived 6/12 with cargo shifting, damage tank and ship side frames. Re-stowage and repair in progress.
SOUTHGATE arrived 6/12 with water over engine room plates and bilge pumps out of action. Repairs could not be completed in time to sail ship with convoy but it is hoped to sail her with P.Q.7.
No information that BOTAVON was for P.Q.6 until ship arrived Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C., 1202N/11 to Admty)

M/Vs at Iceland. Your 1147N/10. BADDECK is not under operational control of C. in C. W.A. and should not be used as escort to U.K. The merchant ships waiting should be sailed to U.K. if escort of 2 trawlers available, otherwise ships must await convoy RU1. (D.T.D., 1223A/11 to A.C.I.C.)

Shipping between U.K. and Australia. Pass to N.C.S.O's. Cancel my 0112A/9. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping which has already been diverted via the Cape and any shipping committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged. (A.C.N.S.T., 1228A/11)

/ALAUNIA

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

ALAUNIA, CHITRAL, WORCESTERSHIRE, PRETORIA CASTLE.

The following A.M.Cs. carrying service personnel will be required to leave Clyde on 22/12.
2. ALAUNIA, CHITRAL and WORCESTERSHIRE to Durban for E.I. Station. PRETORIA CASTLE to Freetown for S.A. Station.
3. Speed 15 knots.
4. A/S Escorts. SULTAN HISSAR to Durban and WIVERN to Freetown both fuelling at Ponta Delgada. ACTIVE parting company as necessary to proceed to Gibraltar.
5. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail WIVERN to join Convoy as directed by C. in C. W.A.
6. C. in C. W.A. is requested -
(a) To make necessary arrangements for WIVERN, ACTIVE and SULTAN HISSAR.
(b) To provide additional local escort as requisite and,
(c) To sail and route ships.
(D.O.D. H., 1307A/11.)

S.S. BATORY.

Your 1702/24/11. Intend to sail S.S. BATORY (17 knots) unescorted from U.K. to Gibraltar shortly. Request you will arrange for inward A/S escort.
2. It appears that suitable homeward escort could be provided by HESPERUS and BADSWORTH returning to U.K. end December vide A.M.2216/3.
3. Further signal will be made by D. of S.T.
(D.O.D. (F), 1311A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.Q.5. Q.P.4.

Despite definite assurance given to Maclay and myself by Russian Naval Authorities and Papanyn that icebreaker LENIN would be used exclusively for berthing P.Q.5 and breaking out Q.P.4 LENIN has been temporarily removed to bring in four Russian Transports. I have been assured that LENIN will be absent for only 24 hours and thereafter will resume operation on Convoys. In view of fact that ice conditions deteriorating and 8 ships of Q.P.4 in river above Economia are causing us anxiety perhaps you could approach Kuznetzov and ensure exclusive use of LENIN until this operation completed. Please note that no ship can move without assistance of Icebreaker LENIN. Admiralty please pass to S.B.N.O. North Russia.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1345C/11 to Ad. Miles.)

O.N.48.

N.O.I.C. Iceland 1147N/10. Desirable that BADDECK return with O.N.48. This convoy will normally be escorted by Task Unit 4.1.12 now on way to Iceland with S.C.58 and consisting at present of six ships only, due to loss WINDFLOWER and damage to NASTURTIUM.
(C.C.N.F., 1437Z/11 to C. in C. W.A.)

/H.X. 161 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

H.X.161 — Average speed 8.37 knots. 8 stragglers on 2/12 in southerly gale. Heavy weather throughout voyage. All ships arrived plus TORFINN JARL ex S.C.56.
(D.T.D., 1541A/11 to Opnav).

H.G. and O.G. — In order to regain moonlight sailings the following are the proposed dates of sailing of H.G. and O.G. convoys:-
H.G.77 31/12, O.G.78 10/1, H.G.78 29/1, O.G.79 25/1. and subsequently at 29 day intervals 2. It is appreciated that there will be few merchant ships for H.G.78. Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. T., 1617A/11)

S.C.59. — Commodore should not be embarked in Admiralty requisitioned tankers, as they are liable to diversion to Iceland (C).
(D.T.D., 2326A/11 to N.C.S.O. Sydney, C.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ROSABELLE sunk.

ROSABELLE blown up. Have 11 survivors on board. (SAYONARA 0510/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0555 ("Was ROSABELLE torpedoed" - not circulated.) I do not think so, but she sank in about 30 seconds. Survivors too shaken to give connected story.
(SAYONARA 0615/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
ROSABELLE sunk in 035° 59' N. 005° 17' W. at approx. 0345/11. Cause not yet ascertained. 12 survivors picked up.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0928A/11 to Admty.) See also LADY SHIRLEY 1306A/11.

Destroyer Movements.

Ref. 2216/3 from Admty. and 1704/7 from Admty. Departure LEGION, MAORI, SIKH, ISAAC SWEERS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0530A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, repeated S.O. Force H.)

PONTET CANET (French)

Departure for Casablanca via Lisbon.
(? 1024/11 to D. of S.T.)
French Shipping passing Gibraltar 9/12 - see D.O.R. 11/12.

Suspicious M/V.

At 0940Z/11, Civil aircraft reported one medium M/V in 43° 07' N. 10° 07' W. Co.240°, speed 12 knots.
(D.D.I.C. 1140A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
See also 1732/11, 1821/11.

FORMIGNY (French)

Arrival H.M.T. ALOUETTE with FORMIGNY.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1216A/11 to Admty.)

LADY SHIRLEY sunk.

My 0928A/11. Regret LADY SHIRLEY has disappeared without trace. Last known position 190° Carnero 5 in company at 0305A/11 with three other trawlers in line abreast patrol in Straits.
(2) Visibility in Straits very low during night.
(3) It would appear both ships must have been torpedoed.
(4) Submarines sighted on surface by aircraft in position 094° Europa Point 66 at 0915A/11. Group 1 in vicinity.
(5) Request my 0928 may be passed to C. in C. Med. and this message to M.E.W.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1306A/11 to Admty.)

/ROBERTS ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

ROBERTS
BRADFORD
SCARBOROUGH
FRITILLARY.

For Admty, and pass to C. in C. S.A. ROCHESTER C. in C. W.A. F.O.i/c Gibraltar. E.T.A. (a) Freetown 22/12, (b) Bathurst 20/12, dependent on EREBUS's fuel consumption. BRADFORD, SCARBOROUGH, FRITILLARY also in company. Unless otherwise signalled (a) will be followed. (ROBERTS, Ponta Delgada, 1316Z/11 to C. in C. S.A.)

HARVESTER.

Return to Gibraltar forthwith at best speed, report E.T.A. when 100 miles clear of convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1414A/11 to HARVESTER.)
Amend E.T.A. 0145A/12 due to attacking (together?) Sub. contact in 036° 45' N. 008° 18' W. (HARVESTER 1955A/11 to F.O.C.N.A., rep. S.O. Force H., Capt. D.13 and 19.)

LIGHTNING.

LIGHTNING is to return to Gibraltar forthwith. Report E.T.A.
(V.A.C.N.A. 1423/11 to Capt. D. 19.)
Arrival LIGHTNING.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2102A/11.)

Gibraltar, supply during siege.

A/T 1738A/7. F.O. Force 'H' informs me his opinion on the limited possibilities of supply are contained in paras.9 and 10 of J.P.715 of 2nd Sept.
2. Ref. para. 3 F.O. Force 'H' made it clear possibility of unloading without enemy interference was remote, but should opportunity occur 2 M.L.Cs maintained at Gibraltar might be of value.
3. Trials referred to in para.2 of D of S.T's 1851A/2/12 do not therefore appear to arise.
4. My own view is that chances of revictualling the Fortress by surface vessel under siege conditions are virtually nil, since the necessary prerequisites of low visibility, calm sea, and lack of enemy R/C and patrols would be extremely difficult to forecast even from Madeira or Canary Islands.
5. A surface vessel laying off Catalan or Sandy Bay whilst discharging would be under direct observation from Spanish Mainland and could be silhouetted by searchlights from Ceuta at night. Moreover the localities where such operations would be practicable are so obvious that in all probability the area would be mined, particularly if we construct anything in the way of permanent landing facilities beforehand.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1500A/11 to Admty., rep. F.O.H.)

/BARFORD ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

BARFORD, BARCLOSE, BARFOAM.	My 2354A/10 (re sailing BARFORD, BARCLOSE and BARFOAM in Company to Ponta Delgada F.O.C.N.A. requested to provide onward route from Azores.) Fuelling Port in Azores should be Fayal, not Ponta Delgada. (C. in C. W.A., 1605A/11 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
Salvage Tug, Azores.	Your 1136A/10 Portuguese do not know SALVONIA was formerly commissioned and regarded her purely as a commercial vessel. My enquiry yesterday revealed question still being considered by Government who fear German protest on ground that commercial tug permanently stationed in Islands would act as a kind of patrol vessel. (N.A. Lisbon, 1611/11 to Admty.)
French Shipping.	1030/10, Spanish minelayer MARTE class lying stopped 270° Cape St. Vincent 6 miles. Gibraltar 1040/11 French armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE French ships TOURQUENNOIS, light, DAHOMEY, laden, both with deck cargo motor transports, CHARLES SCHIAFFINO, full, SURVILLE, ballast, trawler TATIANA, westbound. 1144, French survey vessel ESTAFETTE French ships OUED FES, LILLOIS, NANCEN, trawlers BRITTIA, TIEMCEN, all full, eastbound. (S.O.I. Gib., 1719A/11 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
Neutral Shipping, HERMIONE.	Admty. 1140A/11 not to HERMIONE. Request particulars of movements neutral shipping proceeding from North Spain to westwards. (F.O.C.N.A., 1732A/11 to Admiralty repeated HERMIONE.) Admty. 1140A/11. Departure HERMIONE to search for M/V. Catalina carrying out cross over patrol from centre 040° 30' N. 016° 10' W. during 12/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1916/11 to Admty.)
SERAFIN TOPIC.	My 1924A/29. Ship is reported B.3 to be painted black. (D.N.I. 1811A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)
PONTET CANET.	Observed French PONTET CANET entering Lisbon from North in (corrupt group). (LOCH OSKAIG, 1820A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/Suspicious ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

Suspicious M/V.

At 1558Z/11 civil aircraft reports one large camouflaged M/V in 39° 20' N., 09° 30' W. speed 10 knots, course north.
(D.D.I.C. 1821A/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

GRELHEAD (sunk 1/12.)

Following from Vice Consul Melilla (begins) Position about 2 miles from land vicinity Punta Negri calculated speed 7 knots and time of sailing 20.25 hrs 1/12. It would appear from evidence of survivors that there was a small explosion aft apparently in magazine on poop followed immediately by a terrifying explosion and the ship sank immediately. Sworn statement to this effect before Authorities. I suspect sabotage. (Ends.)
(Consul, Malaga, 1846/11 to S.O.I. Gib.)
(See Diary 3/12 P.79.)

Movements.

HARVESTER from West E.T.A. 0145/12. HARVESTER, LIGHTNING westbound 0600/12th CLAN MACINNES escorted by SPIREA, STANLEY expected from West during night 11th/12th.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2059/11 to Ships on Patrol Gibraltar Force.)

ISAC distress.

My 2000A/10 (N.T.in W.D.) Water gaining in engine room of ISAC. CLARE and merchant vessel being detached daylight 12/12 to endeavour arrive Ponta Delgada at 1930A/12. Weather report.
(IBIS, 2305Z/11 to F.O.C.N.A., Repeated: CLARE; Admiralty; C. in C. S.A.; N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada; B.N.A. Lisbon.)

Suspicious M/V, REGENT.

For information. A/C report a large camouflaged merchant ship in 039° 20' 009° 30', course north, 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2310A/11 to REGENT.)

South Atlantic.

VIDETTE.

E.T.A. Bathurst 1100Z/11. Position 012° 45' N. 018° 00' W. Weather report.
(VIDETTE, 0402Z/11 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/West African ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

West African Troop Movement. Your 1536/9. LAFONIA has been sent to East London for fitting as transport and date of completion is 1/2. Undesirable that West African troops should be accommodated in South Africa longer than absolutely necessary. Request troops be embarked in returning transport towards end January for Durban where they will have to be accommodated until LAFONIA ready. Flow of transport through Mombasa should normally permit this without exceeding the limit of unescorted ships. Final capacity of LAFONIA not at present known but estimated ship can take these troops.
(P.S.T.O. Simonstown, 0904Z/11 to Admty.)
See also East Indies.

DEVONSHIRE CANTON. My 1305Z/9 para.(D), cancel R/V "N". DEVONSHIRE and CANTON R/V at position "Q", 005° 00' S. 020° 00' W. at 0800Z/12, then search in, DEVONSHIRE western half of I 35 A and CANTON eastern half of I 34 B and R/V in position "R", 002° 00' S. 020° 00' W. at 0800Z/13.
(C. in C. S.A., 0925Z/11 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON.)
Cancel my 0925Z/11, Search following areas tomorrow 12/12. DEVONSHIRE search Eastern half of H 34 D. CANTON Eastern half of I 34 B.
(C. in C. S.A., 1755Z/11 to DEVONSHIRE, CANTON.)

Movements. Capetown arrivals 10/12. Whale catchers VESTFOLD III, V, ?VII, XI, BUSEN VII, XI.
Simonstown departure 1023Z/11 BIRMINGHAM flying flag of R.A.S.A.D. for Plate Area in accordance with R.A.S.A.D. 2045/10.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1025Z/11 to Admty. etc.)

SURI SOULIOTIS. Your 1809/8th (not to Admiralty). It would appear that Greek Ship SURI SOULIOTIS has continued her voyage to Pernambuco.
(C. in C.S.A. 1138Z/11 to General St. Helena, rep. Admty.)

Diversion of Shipping. Your 1421N/4. Concur. A.M.0001/1/5 will be amended in due course.
(D.T.D. 1447A/11 to C. in C. S.A., rep. F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

ROXBURGH CASTLE. Sailed 1410/11. E.T.A. Ascension 28/12/41.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1510/11 to Admty. etc.)

/ROSLIN CASTLE ..

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

ROSLIN CASTLE, suspicious ship, 5/12.

ROSLIN CASTLE reports sighted at 1445Z/5 in 024° 22' S. 023° 31' W. vessel of 9 to 10,000 tons believed to be Japanese with narrow red and white band on funnel steering 290° at 17 knots. Details.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1737B/11 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., etc.) See also S.O.I. Capetown 1716/13.

AUGUSTA LIANA. (Italian)

Bahia reports AUGUSTA transferred today 11th to Brazilian Flag. LIANA transfers tomorrow.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1804Z/11 to Admty.)

Argentine Trawlers.

My 1525Z/8. PRESIDENTE MITRE returned to Buenos Aires 0830 local time today 11th after operating in estuary of Rio De La Plata, is fuelling and will probably leave tomorrow 12th. Reported that PRESIDENTE ROCA is due to return to Buenos Aires tonight and expected to sail again on Saturday 13th.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 1834Z/11 to Admiralty, repeated S.O.(I) Freetown, R.A.S.A.D. South America Squadron, B.N.A. Rio De Janeiro, B.N.A. Buenos Aires.)

Brazilian S/Ms.

Brazilian submarine flotilla will leave for exercises off Ilha Grande 15/12 remaining until end of month.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1836Z/11 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)(S.O.I. Montevideo 2145Z/11 to Adty.)

Pocket Battleship Report.

My 2228Z/9. Investigations indicate that reports of pocket Battleship originated from some persons on Uruguay Coast sighting ARGENTINA mistaking her for warship.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2045Z/11 to Admty.)

Shipping Diversion.

It may be necessary to divert at short notice ships routed between Madagascar and East African Coast. The Master of every ship so routed is to be given two special lettered positions to the east of Madagascar. He is to be told verbally that, providing he is not south of 10° S. if southbound or north of 28° S. if northbound, he is to alter course forthwith to pass through the special lettered positions, on receipt of the following signal:- To all British and Allied Merchant Ships. For ships with code word "Pig" only - "Whistle". After passing through the special lettered positions he is to rejoin his original route as convenient, increasing the length of his voyage as little as possible.

/2 ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Shipping, Diversion contd.

2. The two lettered positions to East of Madagascar to be given to ships should be anything between 50 and 500 miles to eastward of the Island. It is important that routes should be widely dispersed.
3. The word "Pig" must never be put on the routeing form given to the Master, but the special lettered positions should be clearly indicated on routeing signals sent to Admiralty and other Naval Authorities.
Example: Ref. Q (Pig) 24° S. 52° E.
Ref. T (Pig) 14° S. 54° E.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2311A/11 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Ships, Navarin. Following from 201 Group A/C; one M/V of 2,000 tons and one small M/V under 200 tons in Navarin as well as a cruiser.
(Capt. S.10, 0636Z/11, to PORPOISE.)

BARON FAIRLIE. SALVIA. If BARON FAIRLIE is held up by weather return Famagusta top up oil fuel depot and return to Beirut. C.S.A., Alexandretta is requested to inform me when BARON FAIRLIE is ready to proceed when escort will be sent.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 0905C/11, to SALVIA.)

S/M's. My 1654B/9 Form R line as follows: 3 - 039° 27' 017° 24' - 060° - 13 - 150° - position A,039° 27' 017° 24' UPRIGHT. Position B, UTMOST, position C, UNBEATEN.
(Capt. S.10, 0924B/11, to UPRIGHT H.M.S.UTMOST H.M.S. UNBEATEN.)

Enemy Destroyers. P.C. and S., of 2 Enemy destroyers (? D) 38.00 N., 16.24E., 040° 20 knots.
(Med. A/C, 0930Z/11, to Hal Far, Submarines on patrol.)

S/M's. Leave patrol and return to Alexandria as follows, PORPOISE through 035° 40' 021° 30' and 033° 10' 027° 30' to pass through 1st position about 0100B/13 and arrive Sanctuary 0530B/16. PERSEUS through 037° 27' 020° 10' 035° 12' 020° 00' 032° 54' 027° 28'to pass second position about 2200B/13 and arrive Sanctuary 0530/17. TRUANT is to leave area T p.m./11 and proceed through 035° 42' 023° 26' 036° 16' 020°34'037° 26'020° 32'to establish patrol in area P within 48 miles 038° 11' 020° 21'. TORBAY proceed through 035° 42' 023° 26' 036° 40' 021° 34' thence patrol in area Q within 50 miles Pylos light vicinity, remaining east of 021° 50' E., until 0001B/13. S/M's are not to be attacked at night during nights 11th 12th and 13th unless they can definitely be established as enemy.
(Capt. S.1, 0931B/11, to S/M's named.)
W.D. Note:- This was amended subsequently by 0521B/12. q.v.

NEREUS. On your return route proceed through 034°44' 026° 10'033° 30' 028° 38', thence direct to end of searched channel.
(Capt. S.1, 0953B/11, to Grk S/M NEREUS.)

/Enemy .....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.Contd.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S., of one enemy destroyer and one merchant vessel are:- 37°.00' N., 20° 35' E., 170° 10 knots.
(Med. A/C, 0955/11, to Hal Far.)

Enemy Units, Navarin. Position of one enemy hospital ship, one merchant vessel of 1000 tons, one schooner, Navarin.
(A/C Y of No. 39 Sqdn., 1300/11, to 201 Group.)

Enemy Destroyers. Following is text of M.S.830. P.C. and S., of 2 enemy destroyers at 1130B, 38° 00' 16° 24' 040° 20.
(Capt. S.I., 1311B/11 to S/Ms on patrol.)

Delta Mission. Ref. Chiefs of Staff No. 208 (Admty., 1550A/10) it is requested that an officer not below Captain's rank may be nominated to attend on the mission for liaison purposes and to express Naval requirements for air defence.
(V.C.N.S. 1414A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units, Patras. A.M. Aircraft R/c Patras. 1120, One Merchant Ship, 3000 tons, one destroyer 038° 15' N., 021° 25' E., course 270° 7 knots. 1125, one destroyer 038° 15' N., 021° 35' E., course 90° very slowly. 1130, close off Patras, one Merchant ship 11,000 tons.
(V.A.Malta, 1540B/11, to Submarines on Patrol.)

M/V sunk by TALISMAN. 15000 tons merchant ship, silhouette similar to VULCANIA, (?escorted by) 1 destroyer, sunk, P.C. and S., 036° 23' N., 020° 33' E., 090°, 17 knots. Weather report.
(TALISMAN, 1623B/11, to Capt. S.I.)

Enemy Destroyer. Following has been read, 1 destroyer bearing 360° distance 20 miles my position NWHE 2500.
(Med. A/C N., 1631/11.) (33.25N., longitude indecypherable.)

Libya. Military Situation Report.
(C. in C.M.E., 1740/11.) See Lion Copy.

/Malta Raids.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

Malta Raids. Air Operations, Benghazi. Catania.

Night 10/11, 1732 hours 4 Raiders approached, bombs sea. No interception. 2023 to 0454 hours approx. 12 intruder aircraft. Bombs land sea. No damage. No interception. 8 Wellingtons Mark II successful shipping and wharves Benghazi 0114 to (0 10) hours. Bombs scoring direct hits wharves and dock railway. 1 4000-lbs. bomb burst Cathedral Mole tremendous explosion. 11/12, 2 Blenheims very successful dawn attack shipping Catania Harbour 4 500 lbs. SAP bombs 11 seconds delay dropped mast height separate attacks first.
2 hits 6000 ton MV. 1 hit, probably 2,5000 ton MV. Crew reports ship attacked by first aircraft as on fire and burning well.
(H.Q. Malta 1800/11, 1801/11).

S/M's.

Eastern Med. S/M. movements summary 68.

Submarine	Estimated noon position 12th.	Estimated noon position 13th.
TORBAY.	035° 42' N. 023° 26' E.	036° 40' N. 021° 35' E.
THRASHER.	032° 58' 027° 18'	Alexandria a.m.
TALISMAN.	035° 22' 020° 34'	034° 22' 022°40'.
PORPOISE.	Off Navarin	035° 05' 022°56
PERSEUS.	Off Argostoli	035° 50' 20°04'.
TRUANT.	036° 04'021° 30'	Off Argostoli.

(Capt. S.1. 1801B/11 to Med. Fleet).

DERNA (Italian)

Arrival 11th.
(Barcelona, 1817/11 to M. of W.T.).

UPRIGHT SOKOL.

Leave patrol 0001B/14 through 039° 05' 017° 30' 037° 46' 016° 06' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/16. SOKOL leaves (?last) position about 2100B/12 through 038° 20' 018° 15' thence to position A.
(Capt. S.10 1595B/11 to UPRIGHT).

Tobruk raid and mining.

C.A.F.O. 587/40 para. 4.
(A) 0330 - 0530/11 cloud slight (B) 12 aircraft. Moon 3rd quarter. (C) Combined bombing and minelaying (D) 2 mines with parachutes in boom entrance (1 blue magnetic swept A.M./11) 1 mine with parachute outside boom (red magnetic swept A.M./11) 2 type C self detonated ashore.
Believed 3 type G laid in harbour.
(E) to (K) Nil. Mines believed laid 6th and 8/12 in harbour.
(S.B.N.O. Tobruk 2101B/11 to Admty.).

/HOBART.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

HOBART. Your 1121B/9. HOBART is to be sailed for Colombo as soon as complete with fuel pending decision as to her destination which is under discussion between C. in C. Eastern Fleet and A.C.N.B.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2235A/11 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk movements. 8/12. Arrival YARRA. FLAMINGO departure YARRA. 10/12 arrival M.T.Bs., Nos.215 and 68, departure WOLBOROUGH SOTRA, "A" 100 "A" 9 "A" 4 LESBOS DARIEN (2).
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 2359B/11, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LAWRENCE. Departure p.m./11 LAWRENCE with dredger in tow for Bombay. Route 010° 04' 076° 00' 016° 37' 071° 49' thence direct, knots 6.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0238Z/11 to Admty.; F.O.C.R.I.N. etc.)

WINDSOR CASTLE. Your 0204/5. WINDSOR CASTLE expect to complete 6/1.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0644Z/11 to D. of S.T.)

Convoys B.A.11. B.P.31. W.S.12Z.B. My 1215/14/11. B.A.11 ex Bombay 15/12 cancel YOMA. Following additional moves are being arranged Bombay. Suez 25/12 2 Personnel ships ASCANIUS, YOMA Bombay Basra. B.P.31, 9 Personnel ships about 6/1, sailing date depends on arrival date of W.S. 12Z.B.
(S.S.T.O. India, 1137Z/11 to C. in C. E.I.)

Shipping. Propose to issue instructions that C.A.M.S.I. article 487 applies to all ships of 10 knots and above proceeding independently in area 3B East of longitude 70° E. and also those proceeding eastward out of this area.
(C. in C. E.I., 1248Z/11 to Admty. rep. C. in C. Eastern Fleet, R.A. Malaya, F.O. Red Sea.)

West African Troop Movement. N.O. i/c. East London has reported date of completion of LAFONIA to be 1/2/42. Proposal to use her as in A.M. 1536/9 is not therefore practicable. Subject to C. in C. S.A. being able to provide escort, propose that the 466 West African troops should proceed from Massawa to join ALMANZORA at either Mombasa or Durban. ALMANZORA's present programme is to arrive Mombasa about 15/12 and Durban about 24/12. Destination in West Africa will probably be Takoradi.
(D.O.D. (F), 1910A/11 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. S.A., etc.)
See also South Atlantic.

Shipping Diversion. A.C.N.S. (T), 2311A/11.
See South Atlantic.

MOST SECRET

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

PRINCE OF WALES, REPULSE, fighter protection.

Ref. 1701/10 from Chief of Staff, Eastern Fleet. Owing to military situation Fighter protection could not be provided for PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE on Wednesday 10/12.
C. in C. Eastern Fleet was informed to this effect at 2253 G H (?/) 8.
(C. in C. E.F., 0155Z/11 to Admty.)
Preliminary report REPULSE loss of 27 officers and 486 men. The survivors number 42 officers and 754 men.
(C. in C. E.F., 0801Z/11.)
Approx. 130 officers and 2200 ratings have been saved from PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE.
(C. in C. E.F., 1131Z/11 to Admty.)

Malaya.

Situation Report.
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0325/11 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Hong Kong.

Situation Report.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0942/11 to C. in C. F.E., and W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Enemy Intelligence.

(Groups missing)
(a) 1400Z/10 a number of ships of which largest one probably aircraft carrier sighted by S/M in 003° 30' S. and 109° 25' E. steering south 12 knots.
(b) 0013/11, sighted by aircraft in 005° 03' S. and 111° 25' E. unknown cruiser steering west (? 12 knots).
(c) Air R/C from (? Tanjong Priok) and Sourabaya is being maintained today, and (spare groups) ordered tonight attack aircraft carrier if possible.
(d) ? has been sent to eastern part of Java Sea. Division S/M 3 from Celebes Sea to South China Sea south of Equator. Division S/M 4 remain in position 60 miles north of Carimata Strait. 2 destroyers from Sumbaba to Celebes Sea. ? and 2 destroyers staying near Sumbaba.
(Singapore, 0621Z/11 to Admty., A.C.N.B.)

Tobi bombed.

Six Australian Hudsons from Amboina bombed Tobi (approx. 003° N. 131° E.) a.m./10. (? 22) direct hits or near misses on storehouse with 250 and 100 pound bombs. One Hudson crashed after take off.
(C/S Singapore, 0801Z/11.)

/Eastern ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11.12.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Eastern Fleet, policy. On assuming command my broad policy to meet present situation is as follows:
(2) We are back in period before relief, our object must therefore be -
(a) Hold as much of Malaya as possible to secure Singapore as a base for Eastern Fleet.
(b) Keep trade moving.
(c) Effect maximum damage by air and submarine on enemy.
(3) To effect this we require all possible reinforcement of Submarines, Minesweepers, and Destroyers, in addition to whatever air reinforcements can be provided.
(4) Battleships should not come further than Colombo until accompanied by Cruisers, Destroyers, and air.
(5) I realize difficulty in meeting all demands but if Singapore is to be held we must have necessary forces with which to do it.
(C. in C. E.F., 0833Z/11 to Admty.)

Lights. All navigation lights Singapore Strait, Singapore, Malaya Strait, Penang, East and West Coast of Malaya, Coasts of Borneo and Sarawak and Netherlands East Indies, are liable to be extinguished without further notice.
(R.A. Malaya, 0843Z/11 to China Station, Admty.)

Hong Kong Report. Events past three days. Monday (8th) eight bombing attacks. CICALA and TERN dive-bombed repeatedly but no damage or casualties. Tuesday (9th) few bombing attacks one A.P.V. slight damage from near miss. Wednesday (10th) bombing attacks continued, CICALA one hit aft but little damage. Stonecutters shelled for 6 hours. Thursday (11th) 0100, long range gun shelled town Hong Kong Island for 2 hours. Three hits on Military Hospital. Stonecutters W/T station one hit by bomb. Little damage.
(Commodore, Hong Kong, 0945HI/11 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

ACHILLES. Ref. your 1042M/8 to C. in C. China (not to Admiralty or A.C.N.B.) In view of the adverse circumstances will you please cancel detachment of ACHILLES to 2nd Destroyer Flotilla and give her any orders you wish.
(C. in C. E.F., 1031Z/11 to N.Z.N.B.)

/Manila ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 11.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Manila Communications. THANET, SCOUT.

Your 1157/11. Are you still receiving messages from C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and other authorities via this commercial service? If so forward those concerning me. Nothing received by any route from Manila originated later than 0500Z/10. News particularly desired of THANET and SCOUT who have not reported their arrival there.
(C. in C. E.F., 1617Z/11 to A.C.N.B.)
Reply, see Australia, 2359Z/11.

Refrigerated Ships.

My 1915A/10. If possible ULYSSES and any other refrigerated ships at Singapore should be sailed to Australia to load.
(D.T.D., 1715A/11 to C. in C. E.F.)

Net Defences.

Johore Straits Naval Base west wall. A.T. Nets have been established between the following positions. Bearing and distance from fixed red light on north-west corner of (? dockyard):- (A) Eastern end 322° 880 feet. (B) Western end 300° 30' 1180 feet. The eastern end will be marked by a fixed red light (unreliable). Insert after west wall "charts affected numbers 2586, F (? 019), and (? F) 0128."
(Cdre. Malaya, 1945Z/11 to China Stn.)

Need for Long Range Bombers.

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Ref. C.O.F. No.53 of 9/12. Fully understand about night fighters and am grateful for action indicated in your para. 3.
2. I must press again the importance of our having long range bombers here. These required not with object of gaining air superiority directly but of causing material damage, thereby helping to put Japanese Air Force on defensive by forcing them to withdraw some fighters from Southern Thailand in order to protect objectives to which they attach great importance. Such objectives most likely to be found in Southern Indo-China, one being aerodromes.
3. In view of loss of PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE increased need for long distance bombers so that we can (4 groups missing) with which to attack in addition to submarines. C. in C. E.F. concurs.
(C. in C. Far East, 2025/11 to W.O.)

OSORNO (German)

Reported to have returned to her anchorage at Yokohama on 2/12 after repairs and temporary accommodation had been completed. No armaments were visible.
(D.S., 828, 11/12.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington Report.

D.M.O. from G. Ops.
1. Philippines. Unofficial report states Japanese air forces raided Manila night 8/9 December. Major Japanese attack developed at Luzon. With Naval and Air support landings made on N.W. coast from Fernanda Point to Vigan and at Aparri in the North. U.S. Air Force claims one enemy transport sunk and two severely damaged. Naval base at Cavite bombed and extensive damage caused. U.S. Commanding General reports that there are indications Japanese dive-bombers are at least partly manned by white pilots. Owing to bomb damage at Clark Field proposed air attack Formosa was cancelled.
2. Hawaii. 2315 hours. 9/12 short air raid alarm at Honolulu.
3. Pacific Coast. During the night 9/10 Dec. further air raid alarms at San Francisco.
4. Atlantic Coast. New York and district had two air raid alarms afternoon 9/12, no confirmation there were enemy planes in vicinity.
5. Guam. No further reports.
6. Wake. Confused reports impossible to state definitely whether Japanese have landed or merely bombed or shelled island.
7. Mexico. U.S. have been granted unlimited air recco. over Lower California. Mexican Govt., has agreed to installation of R.D.F. Stas.
(Brit. Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 0025/11 to W.O.)

Whaling Ship.

Norwegian Whaling Factory ship with seaplane aboard 70 miles due west Callao. Killer boat THORFJELL came in for supplies.
(Bermuda, 0030Q/11 to Admty.)

Shipping, Pacific.

Trans-Pacific Shipping may be resumed, ships being given widely dispersed routes South of 045° S. 160° W. thence Wellington. Coastal Merchant Ship Traffic in Pacific North of Panama may also be resumed.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0043Q/11 to C.S.A. Panama.)
My 1031/11 (N.T. in W.D.) U.S. Naval Authorities have now cancelled previous orders and are still holding North Pacific coastal traffic: convoy arrangements are being made. Although contrary to your 0043Q/11, have agreed to holding ONTARIOLITE, only British Merchant Ship immediately affected.
(C.S.A. Panama, 1201/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., rep. Admty. etc.)

/Your 0043/11 ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 11.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping, Pacific. (Contd.)

Your 0043/11. U.S.C.N.O. has ordered resumption of coastal merchant ship traffic north of Panama and also resumption of trans-pacific shipping on widely dispersed routes pass well to Southward. All ships for Far East to be routed east of Christmas Island, south of ?(Samoa), south of Suva and South around Australia. 2. These instructions have been given by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa to N.C.S.O's West coast U.S.A. and Canada, with instructions to route British and Allied shipping same way. Masters being warned to take every precaution. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1507Z/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

DIOMEDE, DESPATCH, BISHOPDALE.

B.A.D. 2001/10 being passed to Cmdre. W.I. and S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica.
(i) Intend (a) DIOMEDE to co-operate until relieved by DESPATCH.
(b) DESPATCH leaves Jamaica p.m./13 so as to transit Canal 15/12 and relieve DIOMEDE.
(c) DIOMEDE proceed to Bermuda as soon after relief as possible.
(ii) It had been intended to send oiler BISHOPDALE to attend on DESPATCH in Pacific. Request B.A.D. ascertain from (? Opnav) whether this is now desired.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1001Q/11 to Admty., Cdre. W.I., B.A.D., DIOMEDE.)

Martinique St. Lucia.

U.S. Authorities report Adm. Hoover is ordering the surrender of all Naval and Military Armaments in Martinique immediately, otherwise Islands will be bombed. Probable state of emergency will be proclaimed St. Lucia p.m. today. In these circumstances request confirmation of your 1646Q/10 blackout is being established on Island.
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 1116Q/11 to C. in C. A.W.I., rep. Admty., etc.)

INDOMITABLE. DESPATCH.

My 1452R/9. Operation postponed 24 hours to await arrival of DESPATCH. Request confirmation that night attack may be carried out after 0001 Tuesday. Aircraft would indicate moment of releasing smoke float bombs by switching on navigational lights. Request R.N.A.S. Piarco, Trinidad, may be ready to receive aircraft in case of emergency landing.
(INDOMITABLE, 1225R/11 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

/Trans-Pacific ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Trans-Pacific Shipping.	Cancel my 2045A/10. (D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S. (T), 1227A/11 to B.A.D.)
DIDO.	C. in C. A.W.I. 1842Q/6. Unless C. in C. Med. directs otherwise DIDO should proceed to Gibraltar. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1334A/11 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
BADDECK.	C.C.N.F., 1437Z/11. See Home Commands (Shipping).
War with Germany & Italy.	Following received from Secnav. Execute WPL 46 against Germany and Italy in addition to Japan. Advise Naval Authorities. (Spenavo, London, 1451/11 to Admty, London, Group 15.)
GARLAND.	My 2020/5 (? 2028/5 intended). Defects GARLAND completed. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1520Z/11 to N.S.H.Q., rep. Admty., etc.)
Lights.	General Broadcast. All ships warned that U.S. east coast and Caribbean lights controlled by U.S. are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice. (Bermuda W/T, 1537Q/11.)
PRINCE DAVID.	N.S.H.Q. 1556Z/10. PRINCE DAVID with Naval Draft 47 ratings, and 70 tons stores for Bermuda will sail from Halifax p.m./12. E.T.A. Bermuda a.m. Sunday 14/12. (C.O.A.C., 1551Z/11 to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. A.W.I.)
Chile, war policy.	Chilean Government has decided to decree that U.S. and other American countries which have already or may declare themselves at war with Japan will not be considered potential Belligerents. C. in C. A.W.I. pass to R.A.S.A.D. (N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1640/11 to Admiralty for D.N.I.)
H.X.164. O.N. 45.	My 1701/8 delete EBERLE. My 1512/10, for GLEAVES substitute WILKES. (Opnav, 1701/11 to Admty.)

/NASTURTIUM ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 11.12.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

NASTURTIUM. My 1742/10. NASTURTIUM can be accepted at Alabama Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Co. Mobile Alabama, now. Report date of arrival. She is to meet pilot at 0800 zone 6 time at Mobile Bay entrance buoy.
(B.A.R.M., 1740R/11 to C.C.N.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. W.A., NASTURTIUM.)

Chilean Navy. My 1830/9. Distribution of Chilean Naval Units is being altered. Three destroyers to be based on Arica, Tocopilla, Chanaral respectively and possibly a fourth at Coquimbo. Chilean destroyer ALMIRANTE CONDELL will be based on Puerto Montt. Chilean battleship ALMIRANTE LATORRE with one or two destroyers at either Valparaiso or Talcahuano. Submarines and Depot ship ARAUSWELLO and cruiser CHACABUCO as in my 1830/9. ARAUSWELLO will take 6" guns south for mounting in Magellan Straits. Chilean Naval Training ship LAUTARO, ex PRIWALL, on passage to San Pedro with cargo of nitrate has been ordered to return to Chile. Chilean Navy is calling for 1,400 volunteers who will be recruited from ex Naval ratings and if necessary will call up recent conscript contingent to complete number required.
(N.A. Santiago de Chile, 1810/11 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., etc.)

Washington Report. Washops 1.
(i) Philippines. Army aircraft claim hit on battleship HARUNA class North of Luzon. Landing attempts continue in North Luzon. Enemy ashore at mouth of Cagayan River, between San Fernando and Vigon 6 enemy transports attacked by U.S. planes. 3 ships direct hit one sank at once. p.m./10 45 minutes raid Manila by 35 high level and unknown number dive-bombers. Main damage Cavite. U.S. Army Commander reports Japanese have overwhelming preponderance of air strength and consider if pressure continues U.S. Air Force will be wiped out by attrition. State of U.S. Army Air Force in Philippine Is. reported as follows (details).
(ii) Hawaii. No important development. Shortage of 50 calibre ammunition reported. Petrol reserves estimated 4 to 6 months.
(iii) Midway Is. and Wake. Midway Is. had one bombardment on 8/12 by 6-inch cruiser or destroyer and one raid today Thursday. Wake bombed 4 times, shelled once. 3 enemy planes destroyed. Claim one cruiser and one destroyer sunk. Several cruisers and destroyers with transports reported in vicinity. Landing operations possibly impending. Both stations still in communication and resisting.

/(iv) Number ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington Report. (Contd.)

(iv) Number 12 naval district reports LURLINE at 0800 local time 7/12 heard CYNTHIA OLSEN give S O S, attacked by submarine on surface in 033° 42' N. 145° 29' W.
(Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 1831R/11 to Admty., W.O. and Air Min.)

Japanese Miniature S/M's.

Following from N.C.S.O. San Francisco (Begins): U.S. Navy Most Secret report follows "Japanese are using off coast of Honolulu miniature 50 foot S/Ms carrying 4 torpedoes, crew of 2 and of small range evidently launched from ship. One was captured off coast of Hawaii Island". T.O.O. 0100Z/11 (Ends).
(B.A.D., 1845R/11 to Admty., rep. A.W.I., A.C.N.B., etc.)

Naval Strength.

British requirements. Reply to B.A.D. 2037/16/10.
(1st S.L., 1954A/11 to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.

U.S. Patrols.

Amend my 1719/30/11 and 2031/1/12. OMAHA, SOMERS, diverted to vicinity Fernando Noronha whence proceeding to Trinidad. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, patrol interrupted 10/12. Destination also Trinidad where both groups arrive 17/12 refuel for service as assigned. See my 2157/10.
(Opnav, 2208/11 to Admty.)

MACBETH.

Following from MACBETH (begins): Latitude 50.00 N. Longitude 31.00 W., position critical, assistance imperative, towing, otherwise must abandon ship 1827/11. (Ends).
Tug ZWARTE ZEE has been informed.
(D.T.D., 2230Z/11 to Opnav.)

Ex-U.S. S/M's. P.511, P.551.

At request of Admiral (Submarines) Admty. would be grateful if following message could be passed to Commander S/Ms., Atlantic Fleet, (begins): Glad to be able to tell you that the two S/Ms. you have recently turned over to us arrived this side without a single engine defect. Most grateful to you for turning them over in such splendid condition. (Ends).
(Head of M., 2240Z/11 to Opnav.)

/Vichy ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Vichy Warships, Martinique.

My (1027Z) Commander Caribbean Coastal Frontier has issued operations orders as follows.
Ind. Fort de France are BARFLEUR, EMILE BERTIN, BEARN, JEANNE D'ARC in Guadeloupe, all may attempt escape homeland or take offensive action.
Task capture or destroy French war vessels that leave Port.
Group 6.3.8. WASP, SAVANNAH, BROOKLYN, STERRETT, WILSON, STACK, station one destroyer and one cruiser off Guadeloupe and remainder eastward Martinique.
6.3.1. BARNEY, BLAKELEY watch entrance Fort de France. Trail and report movements.
6.3.2. VP 31 reconnoitre French harbours daily at dawn and other times, be prepared for search and attack, army bombers ready to assist.
6.3.3. S.12, S.16 guard entrance Point a Pitre, base Prince Rupert Bay, Dominica.
Order effective on receipt.
(Opnav, 2255/11 to Admty., rep. C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

ASTRAL.

U.S. Navy requests information U.S. ASTRAL believed 6 days overdue Lisbon from Aruba.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2303Z/11 to Admty.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Lights.

Australian C.B.0211. Procedure for controlling lights in Torres Straits will come into force at sunset on Tuesday 16/12. Issue of necessary pass groups to begin forthwith.
(A.C.N.B., 0545Z/11 to (All concerned with Australian C.B. 0211.))
W.M.11. All ships are warned that New Zealand coastal navigation lights are liable to be extinguished and radio beacons to cease operation without further notice.
(S.O.I. Wellington, 1004M/11 to all W.M. addressees.)

/Shipping ...

MOST SECRET

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Shipping.

Your 1041Q/10. Ref. B.A.D. Washington 1307R/9; consider shipping can sail now provided vessels are routed south of 45° S., 160° W. thence to Wellington.
(N.O. Wellington, 1130M/11 to Admty., rep. B.A.D., A.C.N.B., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Manila Communi-cations.

Naval Board opened high speed commercial (as received) service with Manila on 8/12 and this is still in operation.
(A.C.N.B., 1157Z/11 to C. in C. E.F.)
Your 1617/11. Am in constant touch with Manila via this commercial service. Manila has been informed that official messages can be accepted in Australia for onward transmission to any authority. Enquiries are being made concerning ship mentioned.
(A.C.N.B., 2359Z/11 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet. Repeated, B.A.D. Washington, Admty., Capt. on Staff Singapore.)

Shipping for Australia.

Pass to N.C.S.O.'s. Cancel my 0112A/9. Shipping between U.K. and Australia and New Zealand is to be routed via Panama. Shipping which has already been diverted via the Cape and any shipping committed to the Cape route is to continue as arranged.
(A.C.N.S. (T), 1228A/11 to A.I.G.19, A.I.G.26, C's in C. etc.)

Japanese Landings.

S/Ms reported east Abaiang Gilbert Isle, course south of 0135 G.M.T./11 graded B.2.
(2) Japanese landing at Tarawa Island and Makin Island confirmed. Further landing at Makin 2157 G.M.T./10th. Grade B.1 (3) 3 Japanese warships reported at Tarawa Island 0500Z/10 possibly one cruiser and 2 destroyers. Further report states destroyer left Tarawa Island after dark. Graded B.1 except for type of warship which is C.2.
(N.Z.N.B., 1246Z/11 to A.C.N.B., R.N.O. Suva, Fiji.)

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ROSABELLE, LADY SHIRLEY. Sunk, probably torpedoed. See North Atlantic.

LURLINE (American.) Attacked by U/B at 0800 local time 7/12, 33.42 N., 145° 29' W. (See America & West Indies, 1831R/11.)

S.C.57. STAR OF LUXOR. KURDISTAN. KIRNWOOD.

2 ships torpedoed, both still afloat, salvage possible. LADY ELSA, LE TIGER standing by. (SUNFLOWER, 0201/11 to C. in C.W.A.)

Two ships torpedoed and still afloat in 57°03' N., 16° 38' W. ST.OLAVES is being diverted to Lough Foyle and ANGLE is being sailed from Greenock to Lough Foyle. When both ships arrive request you will sail them with FRISKY to assist.
(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0443A/11, to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Request you will sail ST.OLAVES with despatch to R/V with FRISKY at Lough Foyle. ANGLE is being sailed from Greenock to R/V with the two Tugs there.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0445A/11 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

On arrival of ANGLE at Lough Foyle 1630 today, ANGLE, FRISKY and ST.OLAVES are to proceed in company to assist two unknown ships torpedoed and afloat 57° 03' N., 16° 38' W., at 2330A/10. ST.OLAVES will arrive Lough Foyle 1230 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0955A/11, to FRISKY, ST.OLAVES, ANGLE, LE TIGER, LADY ELSA, SUNFLOWER, Rept. N.O.I.C. Londonderry, C. in C.W.A., Admty., R.T.)

Your 0955A/11. Unknown ship mentioned STAR OF LUXOR sank 0305Z. KURDISTAN still afloat at 0915Z but sinking fast and considered a total loss.
(SUNFLOWER, 1155Z/11, to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)

STAR OF LUXOR, 5298 tons, Philadelphia to Liverpool with general cargo. KURDISTAN, 5844 tons, New York to Manchester with food and general. (D.S.829.)

Ref. W.A.C.I. (?84) and my 2230Z/10 and my 0201Z/11. (A) 2200Z/10 (?steering) 57° 03' N., 16° 38' W., (B) PENCIL. (C) STAR OF LUXOR, 52 survivors aboard ALISMA. KIRKWOOD (?KIRNWOOD) at least 39 aboard KINGCUP, ? ALISMA, LE TIGER, NELLIE, and DEWSBURY. KURDISTAN still afloat 0900Z/11, consider total loss, 32 aboard KINGCUP. (D) LIBEL. (E) LADY ELSA, LE TIGER, standing by KURDISTAN. (F) Convoy in 2 parts. SABRE and FENNEL with 7 ships including BENLOMOND straggler from H.X.162. (G) Position and weather report.
(SUNFLOWER, 1200Z/11, to C. in C.W.A.)

KIRNWOOD, 3829 tons, New York to Ipswich with grain. (D.S.829.)

S.C.57 STAR OF LUXOR sank 0305Z/11 and KURDISTAN 1305Z/11.(LADY ELSA,1315Z/11, to C.in C.W.A.)

/Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.57.
STAR OF LUXOR.
KURDISTAN.
KIRNWOOD.
Contd.

Cancel my 0955A/11, ships reported sinking. FRISKY and ANGLE are to remain in Lough Foyle until further orders. ST. OLAVES is to proceed to Loch Ewe to recover starboard anchor thence to Stornoway.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1553A/11 to tugs named.)

FJORD.
(torpedoed 2/12.)

Norway Consul Seville has given Consul Seville following information revising sinking of Norwegian FJORD off Estepona. 2nd mate states ship was in territorial waters when hit about 2½ miles from Estepona. He stated he was certain torpedo came from landward.
(A.N.A. Madrid, 1240/11, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1418A/11, 1419A/11.)

0930Z.

Bearing by D/F 0930Z/11, U-boat 069° 18' 036° 42' E.
(S.B.N.O., North Russia, 1432C/11, to Admty., rep. KENT.)

1713A.

1 S/M - 328 - 5 - 325 STV 36.
(HESPERUS, 1713A/11, to Gibraltar.)

A.M./11.

R.D.F. bearings A.M./11 indicate at least one submarine in area approx., bounded by 44° N., to 47° N., and 31°W., to 40° W.
(Opnav, 1855/11, to Admty.)

Submarines Attacked.

By GLEAVES.

Sound contact by GLEAVES at 1645 GCT 10/12. 45-50 N., 53-35 W. Made deliberate attack. Contact lost and not regained after half-hour search.
(Opnav, 0645Z/11, to Admty.)

By FARNDALE.

FARNDALE reports sinking Italian U-boat in 032° 09' N., 025° 19' E., at 0430B/11 and taking prisoner 6 officers and 47 ratings.
(C. in C. Med., 0844B/11, to Admty.)

/By A/C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.12.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.Contd.

By A/C. Following has been read: Am over enemy S/M in 60.57 N., 12.57 W. When last seen enemy S/M was on surface and observed to dive. (A/C 1307/11.)

By HARVESTER. HARVESTER 1955A/11. See North Atlantic. Following has been read. WWW My 1309. One S/M, enemy course is (?) 170°. A A A attacked with front guns. (Liverpool W/T, 1311/11.)

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

The channels of communication between the British and U.S. Navies are described in Admty. 1214A/12 to C.in C. S.A.

The Cabinet Defence Committee (Supply) have agreed that the highest priority should be accorded to the production of fighter aircraft necessary to equip and maintain the armoured aircraft carriers of the Royal Navy. The present forecast deliveries will leave the Admiralty in a most embarrassing position early next year. Deliveries are required to be at least doubled.

Home Commands.

Operation "Kitbag" was abandoned early this morning.

MANXMAN left Milford Haven this afternoon for Gibraltar with a special cargo.

Ice conditions at Archangel are rendering the future handlings of convoys there extremely problematical. It is feared that unless pressure is exerted the local optimism in favour of Archangel will result in Murmansk not being ready for convoy discharge when required.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft last night attacked Le Havre docks and Brest. Coastal Command aircraft today attacked shipping off the coast of Holland and France, and Donges Oil Refinery at St. Nazaire.

Enemy Air Operations.

S.S. GLENPARK reported at 1754 being gunned off Milford Haven.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

S.S. DROMORE CASTLE in Convoy F.N.76 was mined and sunk this morning in 53° 29' 8" N. 0° 52' 0" E.

Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth and Dover have each been ordered to send a M/S Trawler group to the Humber to reinforce Nore Command (see 11/12).

Normal working was resumed in the Bristol Channel from 1100 today.

North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon reported being bombed at 0955 A today in 38° 37' N. 10° 33' W. Some damage was caused, but LOCH ASKAIG is remaining on patrol.

As far as can be ascertained SERAFIN TOPIC has not started loading. CLYDE is being recalled and will be sailed when there is further news of SERAFIN TOPIC: there is no S/M with sufficient surface speed to replace CLYDE for this operation.

Mediterranean.

3 Italian 6 inch cruisers are expected to pass Cape Bon southbound at 0100B tomorrow, speed 22 knots. Swordfish are expected to attack shortly after the moon rises.

20 Wellingtons bombed the aerodrome at Maleme last night.

It is obvious from sighting reports that the enemy has large numbers of S/M's. at sea in the central and probably also in the eastern Mediterranean.

/C. in C.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. -Contd.

C.in C. Med. again draws attention to the crippling blow that might be inflicted on a line of supply of vital importance to the enemy by attack on Danube shipping when it lies up for the winter closely packed in harbour. There are officers available at Alexandria from Danube ships, who have offered to point out targets.

East Indies.

In view of the present situation in the Dutch East Indies area arrangements are being made for oil supplies for Australia and New Zealand to come from Abadan.

Until further instructions the installation of defences at Nancowry is not to be proceeded with. Work is to continue at Addu Atoll.

The defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C.in C. Far East to C.in C.India.

No convoys are to sail to Malaya until the situation is clearer.

China.

At 0537Z and again at 1401Z today. C.in C. Eastern Fleet reported that he had been unable to communicate with the C.in C. Asiatic Fleet since 0500/10 and he had no idea of the disposition of his force except the four destroyers now at Singapore.

Hong Kong.

TAMAR (Base Depot Ship) was scuttled today. There was slight bombing and somewhat heavier shelling, but damage caused was superficial.

/Malaya....

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Malaya

All shipping has left Penang for Indian ports except 3 ships for Singapore with war stores. There were further heavy air attacks on Penang today; no military damage was caused, but essential services are rather disorganised.
A convoy of 7 ships left Singapore today, 5 for Australia and 2 for Colombo via Sunda Strait, escorted by JAVA, KANIMBLA and 3 destroyers. A further 40 ships are discharging and will be sailed independently via Malacca or Sunda Strait or N.E.I. ports. 2 merchant ships arrived today from Hong Kong.
In addition to ships in dockyard hands DRAGON, DURBAN, 4 U.S. destroyers and VAMPIRE are at Singapore. THANET and SCOUT have left Hong Kong for Singapore via Tarakan. 5 Dutch S/M's. are operating near Singora.
Dutch S/M O16, under operational control of C.in C. E.F. reports sinking 4 troopships in Patani Roads (Singora) by night attack 12/12.
Dutch S/m K12 reports sinking a merchantship off Kota Bharu today.

Philippines.

The War Department reported late tonight that attempted Japanese landings on the west coast of Luzon have been repulsed. The Japanese admit the loss of a mine sweeper and heavy damage to a second, and slight damage to a light cruiser. Several British ships sailed from Manila last night for ports in Western Australia via Lombok Channel in anticipation of Japanese blockade others may leave tonight.
Cebu Island and Clark Field were bombed this morning. Seven patrol planes were destroyed by a raid on Olongapo, leaving 12 in serviceable condition.

U.S. islands.

Messages received at 0820 and 0900 Eastern Standard time today report both Midway and Wake Islands to be still in U.S. hands. The U.S. Navy was in communication with Johnson, Palmyra and Samoa Islands at 0600 Pacific time today. Guam and Tarawaiu Islands are in Japanese hands.

America and West Indies.

It is reported from U.S. sources that 2 large naval vessels, possibly enemy, have been sighted

/off

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

off Isla Fernandina, Galapagos.

One "D" class cruiser is to remain on the Pacific side temporarily. DIOMEDE is there now and will be relieved by DESPATCH.

ILLUSTRIOUS and FORMIDABLE sailed from Norfolk at 2200 today for the U.K.

DESPATCH at 2212R/12 intercepted from U.S. VINCENT a report of a suspicious warship in 25° (?22°) 41' S. 118° 19' W. course 062° 10 knots.

Australia.

CANBERRA and PERTH left Sydney this morning for patrol duty in the Tasman Sea.

New Zealand.

The C.in C. Pacific Fleet reported today several S/M contacts south of Oahu.

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

C.F. Craft at Portland.

Your 1847A/10. Berthing facilities of Portland in winter will not allow safe berthing for all additional C.F. craft being sent for training purposes as well as for assembling. Request only 4 torpedo M.Ls be sent for torpedo training and not more than 10 M.Ls and 4 M.G.Bs or M.T.Bs for assembly, at the same time. This number will require to be reduced on arrival of S.G.Bs.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1240A/12.)

Swedish Traffic to Faroes.

In order to reduce danger of enemy using this traffic as cloak for seaborne expedition, westbound ships are required to be not less than 50 miles apart from 62° N. 3° E. until arrived at Faroes. 2. When three ships sail from Gothenburg together during present short daylight period, requirement in para 1 necessitates one ship arriving Faroes during dark hours. 3. To overcome this disadvantage request your views whether 50 mile interval could be reduced to 25 miles during period 1 November to 10 February when more than two ships leave Gothenburg together.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1250A/12 to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S.)

M.T.Bs at Dover.

Your 1829/10. Existing shortage of M.T.Bs will not allow allocation of three M.T.B. Flotillas to your command. The first four boats of the 11th Flotilla will be arriving at Dover shortly when the 6th Flotilla will be returned to the Portsmouth Command. It is intended to re-inforce the M.T.Bs in your command when practicable to enable boats to have a rest and training period.
(D.D.O.D. C. 1524A/12 to V.A. Dover.)

Clyde M/S Forces.

Your 1537A/9. Concur.
(F.C.I.C. Greenock 1627A/12 to Adty.)

M/S Trawlers for Humber.

To reinforce patrols in the Nore Command request you will sail the following M/S trawlers to Humber. 28th M/S Trawler Group and CLOUGHTON WYKE. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1745A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Request you will sail the following M/S Trawler Groups to Humber - From Portsmouth, 29th Group. From Portland, 57th Group. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1746A/12 to C. in C. Portsmouth and F.O.I.C. Portland.)

/Request ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

M/S Trawlers for Humber - contd.	Request you will sail the 50th M/S Trawler Group to Humber. Armaments are not to be altered before trawlers are sent. (A.C.N.S.H. 1747A/12 to F.O.C. Dover.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Party for Moscow.	KENT arrived. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1636C/12.)

Movements.

BARFORD BARCLOSE BARFOAM.	Your 2046A/11. BARFORD, BARCLOSE, BARFOAM will shortly proceed to Milford Haven whence they will sail for Azores. Your 2046A/11 has been passed to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1024A/12 to Adty.) My 2354A/10. Amend route via Q.Z.S.292 to read route via Q.Z.F.18. (C. in C. W.A. 2315A/12 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
4th M/L Flotilla.	Held up at Milford Haven due to bad weather. Proceed as soon as weather permits. (S.O. 4th M/L F. 1031/12.)
CORINTHIAN.	CORINTHIAN is to leave Clyde 2000A/12 for Oban E.T.A. 1100A/13. 2. N.C.S.O. Oban, N.C.S.O. Methil are requested to sail CORINTHIAN in Convoy to arrive London earliest possible date. (S.O.W.P. 1100A/12.)
MANXMAN.	Admiralty 1240A/9 and subsequent signals. Following have been embarked and ship will sail at 1300 today. Details of stores embarked. (MANXMAN 1100A/12 to Adty.) C. in C. W.A. 1854A/11. Sailed MANXMAN. Code word to limit of aircraft range "Rival". Anticipate S. of A. 20 knots. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1409A/12.)
CAMELIA.	Hove to since 0345. Only pendants 41, 61 and 62 in sight. My estimated position 059° 02' N. 027° 40' W. Request further instructions. (CAMELIA 1200A/12.)

/P.37 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.12.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

P.37. (1) Leave patrol after dark today through the following positions diving by day to R/V in 060° 25' N. 000° 30' W. at 1000A/14 for onward escort to Scapa. (2) A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection and escort from R/V. (Capt. S.9, 1305A/12 to P.37.)

SEALION. Fog Kola inlet and entrance. British minesweeper will meet you R One 1130C/13. If contact not made proceed to anchorage South of Kildin Island in longitude 034° 19' reporting when you leave R/V and when anchoring. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1406Z/12 to SEALION.)

DUEK OF YORK. Arrived DUKE OF YORK, FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, and MATABELE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1518A/12.)

KENT. Arrived. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk 1636C/12.)

BERKELEY. Your 2300A/9. Intend to sail BERKELEY 0830/13 for Sheerness by convoy route passing through Dover Straits at high speed. E.T.A. 1700/13. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1643A/12.)

NIGERIA. When ready for sea NIGERIA should be sailed for Scapa. 2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange the necessary air protection. It is understood that ships S.A. gear has been fitted. (D.O.D. H. 1652A/12 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

WINDSOR. Adjust your speed to arrive Humber L.V. about 0400 tomorrow where you are to anchor and await orders from N.O.I.C. Humber to enter. (C. in C. Nore 1750A/12 to WINDSOR.)

MONTROSE. WORCESTER. Take WORCESTER under your orders and leave Sheerness at 0900/15. (2) Proceed by swept channel and Q Z S 287 and 277 to Invergordon passing close Westward of 59, 59A and 62 buoys. (3) Weather permitting speed of advance is to be 20 knots. S.A. gear is to be operated between Garrison Point and latitude of Fifeness. (4) Fighter protection arranged. (C. in C. Nore 2010A/12 to MONTROSE.)

PYTCHLEY. PYTCHLEY is to proceed Sheerness with HOLDERNESS. (C. in C. Nore 2241A/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Kitbag".

Operation abandoned. Unable to locate entrance. My P.C.S. 061° 26' N. 002° 40' E. 250°, 15 knots. (Capt. D.3. 0601A/12 to C. in C. H.F.)
Operation "Kitbag" abandoned. Unable to locate entrance. Force returning to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1007A/12 to Adty.)
P.37 is to be ordered to leave patrol after dark today and return to Scapa. (F.O.S. 1056A/12 to Capt. S.9.)

Cable laying.

Your 1851A/11. M.L. MACKAY is to be escorted. (1) From Belfast to position A. (2) between positions E. F. and G. (3) From position G. to Belfast. (C. in C. W.A. 1020A/12 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

Operation "Anklet".

Sailed PRINCE ALBERT for Inverary. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1426A/12.)
TIGRIS arrived 0930. (A.C.O.S. 1430A/12.)
Intend to sail KUJAWIAK leaving Plymouth 1700/13 to Clyde. Speed 23 knots. KRAKOWIAK is delayed by defects, but I hope to sail her leaving Plymouth 2300/13. (C. in C. Plymouth 1706/12.)
PRINCE ALBERT arrived. (V.A.C.T.C. 1718A/12.)
Scapa arrival ARETHUSA. (A.C.O.S. 1933A/12.)

Denmark Strait Patrol.

Estimated local situation at 2000/12.
NORFOLK on patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 1605N/12.)

Channel Patrol.

Night 12/13. 3 A/S trawlers patrolling between St. Helens and Beachy Head. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1627A/12.)

CONQUEROR.

C. in C. Nore's 0951A/12 and Admiralty's 1334/7th. As oil fuel stowage ashore in Faroes is limited to 200 tons which is the only source from which Risor and Horten can obtain fuel it is envisaged that operations of CONQUEROR will be severely restricted. Present amount fuel in stock 130 tons. (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1629A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

SEAWOLF Patrol.

Keep North of 71° 20' N. in your area between 1600/14 and 1000/15, then resuming patrol. Admiralty pass to SEAWOLF on next H S routine. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 2259C/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bombing operations. On Night 11/12, nine A/C attacked the Docks at Havre, and 20 A/C attacked SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at Brest. No results were observed at either place.
(H.Q.B.C. 1320/12.)

Bombing restrictions. (1) T.B.R. in areas 101 and 15 cancelled forthwith. (2) S.B.R. arranged as follows. Details. (Capt. S. 9. 1741A/12 to P.37.)

Enemy Air Activity.

GLENPARK. AAAA off Milford Haven. Gunned.
(GLENPARK 1754/12.)

Bristol Channel. Torpedo aircraft have been reported Bristol Channel area.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1832/12.)

Brest area. There are indications of 6 to 12 German Naval A/C operating in the Brest Area between N.W. and S.W. of Brest, p.m.today. Also G.A.F. fighter activity to Northward of Brest. The latter is not abnormal.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1935A/12.)

Mining.

Convoy F.N.76 DROMORE CASTLE. (British, 5242 Tons) sunk. S.S. DROMORE CASTLE mined and sunk in position 053° 29' 08" N. 000° 52' 00" E. Stern of ship is visible above water. 37 survivors in TURQUOISE, Master and 13 others in M.L. No.148 proceeding to Humber. 2 missing.
(WOLSEY 0730A/12) (C. in C. Nore 1523A/12.)
WOLSEY 0730. Stern has now sunk, one mast showing above water.
(PUFFIN 1315A/12.)

Port signals in W.A. In future all signals relating to the closing of ports by enemy minelaying and their subsequent opening are to be repeated to Cs. in C. Portsmouth and Plymouth for the information of routeing authorities.
(C. in C. W.A. 1129A/12.)

/Sweeps ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.12.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - contd.

Sweeps off Dover. Sweeping carried out to 0800/12. By S. and L.L. Trawlers Q.Z.S. 191 and in Q.Z.S. 190 and 269 between Dumpton and Dover. By S.A. Trawlers. Alternative route as in my 1931/5/10 between D.Buoy and Dover. Negative results. (V.A. Dover 1141A/12.)

Minelaying by WELSHMAN. WELSHMAN is to carry out the following programme. (a) Arrive Plymouth 15/12 for operations in accordance with A.L.M/O.D. 2175/41 of 25/11 to C. in C. Plymouth only, using outfits of Mark XVII mines with flooders now embarked. (b) On completion of first lay proceed to Milford Haven to embark similar outfits. (c) On completion of second lay further orders will be issued. (V.C.N.S. 1231A/12 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Spurn Point. One Magnetic and 2 Acoustic mines detonated by Sweepers today. Details. (F.O. Humber 2235A/12.)

Enemy Intelligence.

M/V off Lorient. 1 small M/V bearing 200° distance 2 miles course 280°. My position 47° 29' N. 5° 24' W. (A/C P.R.8 Q. 1315/12 to 19 Group H.Q.)

SCHARNHORST. GNEISENAU. PRINZ EUGEN A report was received, graded B.2., that SCHARNHORST was leaving Brest on night 11/12. (A.C.N.S. H. 1935A/12.)
Preliminary photographic R/C of Brest showed all three main units present at 1515 today. Very slight alteration of camouflage on stern of PRINZ EUGEN and GNEISENAU. The obsolete French warship GUEYDON camouflaged as a dummy is still present in her usual berth. (D.D.I.C. 2110A/12.)

M/V from Kirkenes. German steamer of about 5000 tons reported due to (?leave) Kirkenes for Germany with nickel ore today. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm 1804/12.)

Unknown ship. Following received from Wick Radio addressed A.C.O.S. Intercepted at 2113 G.M.T. From unknown station Strength 2 begins R R R - remainder jammed. Ends. (Scapa W/T 2117/12 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Ice in Denmark Straits.

Pack ice p.m.10th through 067° 51' N. 023° 05' and 067° 26' N. 024° 25' W. Icebergs 067° 58' N. 023° 56' W. and 067° 31' N. 24° 28' W. Thin new ice to southward since blown away by north east gale. Broken ice in 067° 05' N. 025° 45'W. p.m./11th.
(SUFFOLK 0621Z/12) (A.C.I.C. 1241N/12.)

54 D.Buoy.

54 D. Buoy Light extinguished.
(Capt. D. 16 0829A/12.)

Humber.

79 Q.Z.H. Humber Area. Dangerous wreck in about 53° 29' 08" N. 00° 52' E.
(Hydrographer 1513A/12.)

Hammonds Knoll.

Hammonds Knoll Light buoy flashing irregularly.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1904A/12.)

Miscellaneous.

Vichy Ships.

The following Vichy ships have changed their names:- FRANCOIS L.D. to CEPHEE; LEOPOLD L.D. to ALDEBARAN; PIERRE L.D. to PERSEE; LOUIS L.D. to FORMALHAUT.
(D.D.I.C. 1204A/12.)

Casualties and Defects.

INCHMARNOCK.

INCHMARNOCK delayed owing to defects.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 0125/12.)

Convoy F.N.76. AFTERGLOW (British, 936 Tons) struck wreck.

Your 0525/12. Remain with AFTERGLOW. Tug will be sent from Humber when port opens if ship is not refloated before. Fighter protection arranged.
(C. in C. Nore 0709A/12 to PUFFIN.)
Departure tug PRIZEMAN with Salvage Officer on board at 1140 to assist AFTERGLOW.
(F.O. Humber 1148A/12.)
AFTERGLOW in F.N.76 struck wreck of WELSH PRINCE (53° 23' 30" N. 00° 59' 00" E.) Engine Room flooded. Being towed to Humber.
(C. in C. Nore 1523A/12.)
Arrival PUFFIN and Tug PRIZEMAN with AFTERGLOW in tow at 1720. (F.O. Humber 1742A/12.)

AMAZON.

Defect developing. If this cannot be satisfactorily repaired at sea intend proceeding to Aultbea. My P.C.S. 187° Skerryvore 8 miles, 300°, 9 knots.
(AMAZON 1200A/12.)

/My 1200 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.12.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

AMAZON - contd — My 1200. Am proceeding direct Oban. (AMAZON 1440A/12.)

HELENA II. — My 1731/31/10. HELENA II now seriously damaged by collision, approval to lay up under C. and M. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1521/12.)

BLAIRNEVIS (Damaged 24/11.) — Following from Chief Salvage Officer. BLAIRNEVIS refloated this afternoon now anchored Yarmouth Roads. Request vessel be towed away as quickly as possible. (F.O.I.C. Gt..Yarmouth 1708A/12.)

MACBETH. — P.C.S. 050° 33'N.29°12'W.270° 8. Request MACBETH be instructed to transmit for D/F purposes at 0000A, 0800A, 1200A. (PIMPERNEL 1900A/12.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.163. — My 1159A/10. Estimate that H.X.163 will be 6 hours late at M.O.M.P. Speed 7½ knots. (C. in C. W.A. 0045A/12 to BROKE, etc.)

C.T.8. — My 0512/4 and 2227/6. Vessels for C.T.8 are now MORETON BAY and BERGENSFJORD in Liverpool and Glasgow respectively. 2. Sailing date will be 20/12 as before. 3. Numbers to embark will be approx. as follows. (D. of S.T. 0646A/12.)

BATORY. — My 0453/11. BATORY will now embark in Glasgow 15/12 and sail Clyde 16/12. 2. Code number is Z.22. 3. Numbers to embark will be 150 R.N. 80 military, 63 R.A.F., 200 tons of mails will also be shipped plus some cargo probably including refrigerated cargo. (D. of S.T. 0647A/12.)

W.S.14. — 8 hours late at R/V. (ULSTER QUEEN 0915Z/12.)

P.Q.7. — Your 1101/11. Assuming ships from U.K. for P.Q.7 will arrive with H.R. 1, approx. date of sailing P.Q.7 will be 18/12. (A.C.I.C. 1059N/12 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Q.P.3 ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Q.P.3. Intend sailing Q.P.3 from Kirkwall at 1200/13 to join CHITTY at R/V at 1615. Request air protection.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1138A/12 to A.C.O.S.)

Flying of Balloons. Pass to N.C.S.O's. Two instances of the flying of balloons by ships in convoy in a manner contrary to the instructions contained in Adty. A.M.613 have recently been reported. N.C.S.Os are requested to call the attention of Commodores and Masters to the A. message quoted. (D.T.D. 1335A/12.)

P.Q.6. It is clear that ice conditions at Archangel are rendering the future handling of convoys there extremely problematical. 2. Delays reported in the completion of Molotovsk and Ekonomia lend force to this. 3. It is feared that unless pressure is exerted the local optimism in favour of Archangel will result in Murmansk not being ready for convoy discharge when required. So far as is known here the order to move the 35-ton floating crane from Murmansk to Archangel has not yet been countermanded. 4. Request you will strongly urge Russian authorities to have all preparations made to discharge at least some of the ships of P.Q.6 at Murmansk.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1646A/12 to Ad. Miles.)

S.L.94. Leaving Ponta Delgada. Intend meeting S.L.94 dawn 13th. Condenseritis cured.
(ROCKINGHAM 1700N/12.)

E.N.19. W.N.18. E.N.20. W.N.19. E.N.21. W.N.20. 1. Provide A.A. cover to E.N.19 (slow) leaving Methil 0400/14 and transfer to W.N.18 anchoring in Largo Bay on arrival in Forth. 2. Sail again to cover E.N.20 (fast) leaving Methil 1600/17 and transfer to W.N.19. 3. From W.N.19 transfer to E.N.21 and provide cover as far as Dunnet Head thence entering Scapa sail from Scapa to join W.N.20 off Dunnet Head covering last named convoy to Forth.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1743/12 to CURACOA.)

/Icebreaker ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Icebreaker for P.Q.5 and Q.P.4. Your 1345C/11. Urgent representations have been made. (Ad. Miles 1806D/12 to B.N.O. Archangel.)

D.S.18. AMAZON 1200A/12. WELLS was at R/V till 1030. Visibility was (?then) 7 miles. Have not contacted D.S.18. Am proceeding along route to search. My P.C.S are Barra Head 058°, 12 miles, 035°, 10 knots. Request instructions. (WELLS 1850A/12.)
Report your P.C.S. Escort is trying to contact you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2213A/12 to ORBITA.)
Your 1520A/12. NEWPORT not available before noon on Saturday at earliest.
(A.C.I.C. 2214N/12 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 1850A/12. Coastguard Rudha Hunish reported 2 liners northbound at 1615A bearing 230° 4 miles. These vessels are assumed to be D.S. 18. Proceed accordingly. ORBITA has been instructed to report position course speed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2258A/12 to WELLS.)

E.N.U.18. Comdr. has departed from usual route to save time. E.N.U.18 will leave when Convoy arrives at 2100 in position 110° 8 miles Tiumpan Head.
(TARANTELLA 2015A/12.)

LEINSTER. Your 1800/12. Report situation. Is LEINSTER in company.
(A.C.I.C. 2157N/12 to THIRLMERE.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passing Gibraltar 11/12. (D.O.R. 12/12)

Suspicious Ship 11/12. A.M.1140A/11, not to HERMIONE and your 1732A/11. Report received at 0730A/12 that Spanish ship sailed Gijon with navicert 10/12 for Jamaica. This is probably ship reported by civil aircraft (D.D.I.C., 0952A/12 to F.O.C.N.A. repeated HERMIONE).

LOCH OSKAIG bombed. Enemy Aircraft bombing 38° 37' N., 10° 33' W.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 0955A/12 to Whitehall W/T)
My 0955. 2 bombs dropped. Damage to engine room. Dynamo crosshead broken. Proceeding to try and effect repairs. No casualties.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1045A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 1045A/12. H.P. guide loose and dynamo main frame broken. Unable to obtain sufficient current for D.G. or tuning 123. My position 038° 35' N., 009° 16' W.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1135A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
LOCH OSKAIG on patrol off Lisbon attacked by aircraft A.M./12. No casualties, engine and dynamo damaged. Full report follows.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1609A/12 to Admty).
Your 1459A/12. Will remain on patrol until dark 14th if dynamo permits.
(LOCH OSKAIG, 1650A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CLAN MACINNES. Arrival SPIREA STANLEY escorting CLAN MACINNES.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1016A/12 to Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

FORMIGNY (French). Extract from a Fairmiss telegram:-
Arrival - FORMIGNY 11/12.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1209A/12 to M. of W.T.)

HERMIONE. Your 1135A/12. E.T.A. Gate 0800/13.
(HERMIONE, 1214A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FJORD (sunk 2/12) SARASTONE (sunk 29/10) Ref. para. 4 of your 1058/5. Request report whether there is any confirmation that attack took place within territorial waters.
2. Ref. para 11 of S.O.(I) Gibraltar's R.S.163/20/40 of 5/11. Corunna navigational warning dated 19/11 referred to ship sunk in latitude 37° 3' N., longitude 6° 48' W., which does not correspond to position given by S.O.(I) Gibraltar, for S.S. SARASTONE.
(Head of M., 1348A/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/U-boats...

MOST SECRET.

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North Atlantic. - Contd.

U-boats at Majorca. — Consul Palma 1545/12. See U-boat Campaign.

D.19 O.G.77. — After convoy has passed to eastward of Cape Spartel resume patrol as in my 1317A/11. Leave this patrol daylight Saturday, 13, and return to harbour. (F.O.C.N.A., 1558/12 to Capt. (D) 19, rep. Escort O.G.77).

GLADIATEUR. — French Motor fishing boat GLADIATEUR left Coruna 1530/12 reported for Lorient. (Corunna, 1600/12 to Admty).

Fuelling at Ponta Delgada. — CLARE and merchant ships CHARLES L.D. TOMBOUCTOU arrived Ponta Delgada 1800 G.M.T./12. ROCKINGHAM left 1715 G.M.T. (Ponta Delgada 1614/12 to S.O.(I) Gib).

GRELHEAD (sunk 1/12) — Consul Malaga 1846/11 giving details sinking S.S. GRELHEAD is passed to you. (V.A.C.N.A., 1631A/12 to Admty).

HARVESTER, HIGHLANDER LIGHTNING. — Due Ponta Delgada daylight 15/12. Request arrangements made for supplying following fuel and stores. (F.O.C.N.A., 1650A/12 to N.A.Lisbon)

SERAFIN TOPIC. — My tel.1027. U.S. Charge d'Affaires has received telegram from his Consul Algiers dated 11/12 stating that S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC is still in dry dock at Oran and promising early information on any change of sailing occurring in move on this vessel or when loading begins. (Consul Gen. Tangier, 1700/12 to F.O. Rep. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

URSULA. — Intend to sail URSULA p.m./14 for anti U-boat Patrol within 15 miles of Alboran Island returning intact 23rd. (F.O.C.N.A., 1920A/12 to Admty).

SERAFIN TOPIC, CLYDE. — As far as can be ascertained SERAFIN TOPIC has not started loading. CLYDE would have to leave patrol on 17th. Intend therefore recalling her now and sailing her when there is further news of SERAFIN TOPIC.
3. There is no S/M to replace CLYDE, URSULA's surface speed being too low.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1922A/12 to Admty).

CLYDE. — Leave patrol 19.30/13 from 036° 12' 001° 00' W., thence direct to Gibraltar on surface arriving 1400/14. T.B.R. arranged.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2006A/12 to CLYDE).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DALLINGTON COURT.	Overdue shipping DALLINGTON COURT due Lourenco Marques 6th from Suez not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1035B/12 to Admty etc). Cancelled by 0859B/13.
QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX.	Return to Freetown passing through position (a) equator 10° W., (b) 004° 30' N., 010° 00' W., thence to Freetown through sector A.(C. in C. S.A., 1107Z/12 to QUEEN EMMA, PRINCESS BEATRIX).
U.S.N. Communications.	Your 1445N/2 Admiralty and Opnav form the normal channel of communication between British and U.S. Navies. Except for cases covered by SP.02376 or where special arrangements have been made (e.g. para. 1 of A.M.1150A/13/9). British ships and authorities must not address messages to Opnav or any other U.S.Ship or authority, even though such messages may be for information only. 2. SP.02376 is in force (vide A.M.1848B/9/6) and by paras. 24, 25 and 26 you were entitled to pass the substance of DORSETSHIRE's 1746/1 to Commandant 15th Naval District Balboa. The suggestion re escort of W.S.12 X should not, of course, have been passed on as it might have been misinterpreted as an order. 3. Admiralty fully appreciate delays involved by the present rules but U.S. authorities are still averse to increasing the channels by which information can be exchanged. 4. Spenavo is U.S. Special Naval Observer, London.(A.C.N.S.(F)1214A/12 to C. inC S.A.)
BENTE MAERSK.	Overdue shipping BENTE MAERSK due Capetown 9th from Freetown not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 1215B/12 to Admty etc). Cancelled by 0917B/13.
DERBYSHIRE.	It does not now appear that a U-boat supply ship is likely to be in the vicinity of your patrol area in the near future. Primary object of your patrol therefore is now interception of Axis ships such as WARTENFELS returning to Europe via Cape. My 1541N/2 and my 1805Z/10 not to Admiralty refer. Also unescorted Vichy French Ships. (C. in C. S.A., 1309Z/12 to DERBYSHIRE). Your 1309Z/12. Your 1805Z/10 not received. Suggest WARTENFELS and boats may be closing Tristan da Cunha.(DERBYSHIRE, 1938Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.)
Finnish M/Vs.	Following is Admiralty's policy with regard to Finnish Merchant Vessels. 1. (a) All Finnish ships in British ports are to be detained under armed guard and reported. (b) Subject to (c) any Finnish ship encountered at sea is to be sent into a British port under armed guard. (c) In order to minimize interference with U.S.cargoes any Finnish ship bound for (r) for a U.S. port should be allowed to proceed unless there is ground for suspecting Master does not (r) not intend to proceed to his correct destination (d) ex Finnish ships transferred to Flag of any

/American...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Finnish M/Vs. Contd. American state (i) Lying in a British port when war is declared should be detained pending further instructions if still manned by Finnish crew (ii) are not (r) not to be intercepted at sea without special instructions.
2. Dutch are being asked to take parallel action.(C. in C. S.A., 1311Z/12 to S.A.Stn).

Raider 41 KULMERLAND. Following graded B.2. Raider 41, transferred prisoners to KULMERLAND in mid-Nov. in probable position 30° S., 90° E., KULMERLAND disguised as ship of Luckenback Line with American flag painted on side. (2) Comment, KULMERLAND's intentions not known but she was presumably unaware of sinking of 41 until 2/12. (D.D.I.C.,1327A/12 to C. in C.South Atlantic, R.A.S.A.D., N.O.I.C.Simonstown, C. in C. America & West Indies, F.O.C.N.A.,Opnav. Rep. A.C.N.B.)

Removal of Vichy French. Efforts are being made to induce Union Govt. to remove Vichy French from Cyattal areas where they are a potential menance. Any information regarding treatment of British subjects and Union Nationals in Unoccupied France would be of assistance. (S.O.(I)Capetown, 1654B/12 to Admiralty).

Delay of passing message to N.C.S.O. Capetown. Your 0804/11 Part 5 of Admty 2311/23 was received corrupt and had to be checked and repeated twice being finally received at Simonstown 0856/26. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1700Z/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

U.S.Forces. A.M.0033A/2 OMAHA and SOMERS left Pernambuco 11/12 for Fernando Noronha area thence Trinidad. E.T.A.17/12.
2. A.M.1206A/2. MEMPHIS and DAVIS recalled from patrol 10/12 to Trinidad. E.T.A.17/12.
3. CINCINNATI and JOUETT left Trinidad 11/12 E.T.A. 14° 40' N., 59° 35' W., 0600Z/12.
(D.O.D., (F) 1809A/12 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D)
Modified by 1155A/13, q.v.

BRILLIANT. Cancel previous instructions. Return to Freetown at best speed.
(C. in C. S.A., 1901Z/12 to BRILLIANT, N.A. Station Ships, CANTON, ORCHIS, CROCUS).

VIDETTE. You are to proceed at 0200N/13 to Gibraltar passing through following positions (A) 014° 50' N., 019° 00' W., (B) 022° 35' N., 017° 50' W. (C) 030° 40' N., 011° 15' W., (D) 033° 55' N., 009° 25' W., thence to Gibraltar. S.O.A.14 kts.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1931N/12 to VIDETTE).

/U/B...

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South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B Search. — VANSITTART and WILD SWAN with flying boats co-operating will carry out search for U-boats on 14/12 in area south of Verdes. (C. in C. S.A., 1931Z/12 to Admty., rep. F.O.C.N.A.)

CIRCASSIA. — My 1059N/5. It does not now seem likely that a supply ship is moving south towards St. Paul's Rocks area and the need for CIRCASSIA in H.32 B has lapsed for time being. Suggest therefore you withdraw her. Many thanks for sending her. (C. in C. S.A., 2011Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

ECHODALE. — Cancel previous instructions. Return to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2022Z/12 to ECHODALE)

KAJAK. — My 2131Z/2. Owing to changes in situation KAJAK now proposed to proceed Persian Gulf. Am endeavouring to persuade Master to call Capetown for onward routeing. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2127Z/12 to Admty).

Cocoa Shipments. — Your 1311N/11/11. Shipment of cocoa crop from West Africa with minimum of delay is important. Request you will consider a relaxation of restrictions in loading at Accra when information at your disposal shows that the risk of attack is small, as at present. The crop deteriorates rapidly in store, and any opportunity of increasing shipments should be seized, and co-operation of M. of W.T. and local authorities sought to expedite loading. (A.C.N.S. (T), 2331A/12 to C. in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

S/Ms. — Intend sailing submarines from noon onwards tomorrow Friday to establish patrol line by dawn (?13)/12 as follows. 4 - 037° 10' N., 018° 46' E., - 070°-10 (?-) 160° - 30.P. 34 in position J., 037° 10' N., 018° 46' E (?.) UPHOLDER, K.P.31, L. SOKOL, M.
2. Intend moving UPRIGHT, UNBEATEN and UTMOST after dark Friday 12th to establish patrols in positions (?040°) 08' N., 017° 00' E., position R., 040° 12' N., 017° 19' E., position S., and 040° 00' N., 017° 11' E., position T, respectively by dawn Saturday 13th. (Capt. S.10 0140B/12 to Capt. S.1 amended 1329B/12)

/Amend...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

S/Ms. Contd.	Amend my 0931B/11 forthwith. Assume patrol as follows: PERSEUS in area P.1. TRUANT in area P. PORPOISE in area Q. TORBAY in area Q south east of line 230° from Pylos light (corrupt group). (Capt. S.1., 0521B/12 to PERSEUS, PORPOISE, TORBAY, TRUANT, Rept. C. in C. Med., etc).
TALISMAN.	My 1941B/9. Establish patrol forthwith in 035° 20' 020° 36'. (Capt. S.1., 0527B/12 to TALISMAN).
NEREUS.	Your 1834B /11. Acknowledged. Well done. Proceed through 033° 30', 028° 38' thence direct. Adjust speed to arrive 0700B/14. (Capt. S.1., 0925B/12 to Greek S/M NEREUS).
EURTULUS..	Leaves Dardanelles 13/12 for Piraeus and leaves on return journey 19/12. Both dates subject to delay of 48 hours in event of bad weather. Route as in my 1028/13/10. N.O.I.C. Haifa pass to A.H.Q. Levant, N.O.I.C. Famagusta pass to 259 Wing. (C. in C. Med., 0949B/12 to Med., Fleet etc. repeated at 0951B/12).
VASCO, ERICA.	Your 1202C/11. Request VASCO R/V with ERICA at seaward end Haifa searched channel at 0800C/13 for onward escort to Tripoli. (N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 0950C/12 to N.O.I.C. Haifa).
S/Ms.	P.34, UPHOLDER, P.31 SOKOL left Malta noon/12 to establish Patrol line 4 - 037° 00' 018° 46' 070° - 10 - 160 - 30 by dawn 14/12 P.34 int first postn (Capt. S.10., 1030B/12 to S/Ms. on Patrol)
UPRIGHT, UTMOST, UNBEATEN.	Cancel my 1959B/11 to UPRIGHT. Proceed forthwith to establish patrol during daylight hours 13/12 as follows: UPRIGHT, 040° 08' 017° 00', UTMOST, 040° 00' 017° 11', UNBEATEN, 040° 12', 017° 19'. Attention is called to Q.B.4. Heavy unit may leave Taranto a.m./13 proceeding south. After attack or at 1930B/13 withdraw to original patrol in my 0924B/11. (Capt. S.10.,1034B/12 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST, UNBEATEN).

/American....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

American Shipping. Intend that American ships should receive similar escorts and advice as British Ships whilst on Mediterranean Station. (C. in C. Med., 1155B/12 to Admty).

UNIQUE. Return to patrol forthwith. Heavy unit expected South through Messina night 13/14th. After attack or at 0700B/14 return to Malta to arrive a.m./15. (Capt. S.10., 1155B/12 to UNIQUE).

Malta Force to attack enemy cruisers. (i) Malta force of 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers are available to attack 3 enemy cruisers expected to pass to westward of Malta tonight. Intend to carry out this attack unless you wish Malta force to be held for pending operations to eastward.
(ii) Malta torpedo aircraft will also attack cruisers tonight.
(iii) I estimate enough oil remains to enable both forces to do about 2 local operations in addition to that mentioned in paragraph one and still have enough to reach Alexandria from Malta.
(iv) Propose to fill Group 1 destroyers to full capacity to enable them to operate en route to Alexandria. (V.A. Malta, 1159B/12 to C. in C. Med.,)
3 Italian 6-inch cruisers expected to pass Cape Bon Southbound at 0100B/13 speed 22 knots.
(2) NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE and 3 destroyers will pass South of Lampedusa and endeavour to intercept North of Kuriat. (3) Swordfish expected to attack shortly after moon rises.
(4) Keep to your present programme but be prepared for cruisers breaking back to Northward.
(5) You will be kept informed (6) Expected Italians will establish E.boat patrol south from Pantellaria with object of reporting Malta Force. (V.A. Malta, 1223B/12 to SIKH).
Your 1159B/12. Do not use Malta surface Forces for attack on cruisers.
(C. in C. Med., 1645B/12 to N.O.I.C. Malta).
My 1223B/12. Cancel Para. 2.
(V.A. Malta, 1805B/12 to SIKH.)

Roumanian, intelligence. Following from JOU-E for Gen. de Gaulle. Informant reports presence Constanza one fast Roumanian coastal motor boat and one German, Roumanian submarine DELFIN, two destroyers and four torpedo boats. Air units Constanza consist number 53 Roumanian fighter Squadron, two German general staff Squadrons, five German R/C sea and land aircraft, 110 bombers.
(Asst. M.A. Istanbul, 1210/12 to W.O.)

/GLENROY...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

GLENROY. My 1216/24/11 and 1807/27/11 and A.F.O. 2551/40. Board of Inquiry into damage and beaching of GLENROY due to enemy aircraft attack will not be held as I am satisfied that no useful purpose could be served. Written report will be forwarded. (C. in C. Med., 1240A/12 to Admty).

Boom Vessels for Turkey. Naval Secretary to Ministry of National Defence urgent enquiring as to possibilities of supply to Turkey of remaining six boom working vessels and three boom trawlers. Ministry of Foreign Affairs in written communication requests delivery of at least three of the former and the three latter type ships as soon as possible (N.A. Ankara, 1251B/12 to Admty)

TALISMAN R.of P. Occasional depth charges getting fainter loudest at 1130B. Heinkel 115 accounted for 1050 searching at 800 feet course established 060° and 350°. 1110, 4 (? GHIBLI) at 30 feet course North, Weather report 8281 2584. My position is 035° 10' 020° 36'. Have one torpedo. (TALISMAN, 1305B/12 to Capt. S.1) Your 1305B/12. Return to Alexandria forthwith by route in my 1941B/9, arriving Sanctuary 05(? 30) B/16. (Capt. S.1., 1631B/12 to TALISMAN).

Enemy Cruiser. Position course and speed of one enemy cruiser 39° 00' N., 19° 00' E. 030°, 18. (A/C H., 1325/12 to Hal Far).

Enemy M/Vs. Destroyers. Position course and speed of 2 M/Vs. 3 destroyers 38.00 N., 17° 00' E., 030° 10. (A/C B.9CH 1505/12 to Hal Far) (Capt. S.10., 1615B/12 to UPRIGHT, UTMOST, UNBEATEN).

PERSEUS, PORPOISE. Under present circumstances it is intended to recall you to leave your patrol position as follows:- PERSEUS, P.M./14, PORPOISE P.M./16 but it may be necessary to extend these dates 24 hours. Primary object heavy ships, but fire should not be withheld if other opportunities to attack occur. (Capt. S.1., 1559/12 to PERSEUS, PORPOISE).

Enemy Units. Aircraft report one large M/V, 2 destroyers, and 2 escort vessels 037° 47' N., 016° 20' E., course 080° 10 knots. (V.A.Malta, 1645B/12 to C, in C. Med).

/Axis...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Axis Shipping Danube.

Intelligence Reports have again drawn attention to the crippling blow that might be inflicted on a line of supply of vital importance to the Axis by attack on the Danube shipping when it lies up for the Winter. The concentration of shipping is closely packed in the Winter harbours when the river freezes and presents an excellent and vulnerable target. Destruction would have a very serious effect on the Danube traffic when the river re-opens. Is there any possibility of carrying out such attacks from Russian aerodromes? There are some officers available here from Danube ships who have offered to act as observers and to point out targets. Admty. pass to Adm. Miles. (C. in C. Med., 1650/12 to Admty).

Air Operations from Malta.

11th. 6 Blenheims two separate attacks despatched attack one M/V 5,000 tons Argostoli Harbour. First sorties returned engine trouble, second dropped 500 lb. S.A.P. bombs mast height, two near misses possible one hit. Intense A/A one Blenheim shot down. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1655/12).
19 Wellingtons out to attack (Patras) night 11/12. Attack spoilt by cloud and rain down to 1,000 feet, 2 returned with bombs, 1 returned and dropped bombs oil tanks Augusta. 1 dropped bombs aerodrome Pappes, remaining 14 bombed target through cloud 0020 to 0305 hours 12,000 ton liner probably hit, much smoke coming from stern confirmed by other crews. Quay-side buildings demolished, opposition moderate. 0355 hours 2 probable cruisers seen off Cape Passero course N.E. 4 Naval aircraft despatched attack Castel Benito aerodrome. 1 returned mechanical, remainder successful. Attack 0205 to 0215 hours, large fire among hangars visible 50 miles. 5 alarms 1712, 1930, 2253, 0246, 0354 hours, total 14 raiders approached, 8 crossed coast, bombs land, sea, 9 houses damaged searchlight machine-gunned, no interceptions. (H.Q., Malta, 1659/12)

Enemy Shipping.

Same source by (?my) 1238/28/11. 3 Axis Cargo Vessels due to sail from Pireaus p.m./13 with war material and supplies. R/V with escort near Zea Island. Graded B.3. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1713B/11 to S.O.(I) Med., and S.1).

Libya.

Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1715/12) See Lion Copy.

/Russian...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Russian Ships Ex Black Sea.	Your 1521B/10. C. in C. Med., has been informed of destinations of all ships. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (Adm. Miles, 1821B/12 to N.A. Angora, rep. Admty., C. in C. Med).
Enemy Cruisers. Group I.	Your 1223/12 and 0820/12. My 1511/10 amending my 1429/9. Suggest group 1 be ordered to shift to 4740 k/cs now for inter communication with Malta. Force H. (S.O. Force H., 1821A/12 to V.A. Malta).
S/Ms.	Eastern Med., Movements Summary (Submarine) No. 70.

Submarine	Est. noon position 13/12	Est. noon position 14/12
TALISMAN	034° 22' N., 022° 41' E.	033° 36' N., 025° 08' E.
Greek Sub. NEREUS.	032° 31' N., 029° 08' E.	E.T.A. A.M. Alexandria.

(Capt. S.1., 1925B/12 to Med., Fleet).

Enemy Units intelligence for S/Ms.	R/C 12/12, time zone minus 2. 1133, S/M 037° 12" 020° 40' course 325° 1249, S/M 037° 25', 019° 12', course 145° both on the surface. 1325, 1 cruiser 039° 00' 019° 00' 030° 18 knots. 14 (?00) large merchant ship, 2 destroyers, 2 escorts 037° 47', 016° 19' 080° 10 knots. 1505, 2 merchant ships, 2 destroyers, 038° 00' 017° 00', 030° 10 knots. (Capt. S.10., 1940B/12 to S/Ms on Patrol). From sight report in Central Med., it is obvious enemy has large number of submarines at sea, probably also in Eastern Med. (Capt. S.1., 2105B/12 to S/Ms on Patrol rep. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (S)10th S/F, 201 Naval Co-operating Group)
TRUANT.	My 0931B/11 and my 0521B/12. Area P.1. and Area P. (?17) N.W. and S.E. respectively of line 230° from 038° 11' 020° 21'. (Capt. S.1., 1941B/12 to TRUANT, Rept. Subs. on Patrol)

/YARRA...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.12.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

YARRA. YARRA is to be sailed for Aden as soon as convenient for onward passage to Darwin. (D. of P., 2307A/12 to C. in C. Med).

Defence of Berma. Following from Chiefs of Staff to C. in C. India, C. in C. F.E. repeated Cs. in C. M.E. Med., E.I. and Eastern Fleet.
Decided that defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C. in C. Far East, to C. in C. India.
2. Burma Office are informing Governor, Burma.
3. C. in C. India is requested to determine date on which transfer takes place in consultation with other authorities concerned, and to report to Chiefs of Staff.
(1st S.L. 2308A/12 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F.)

Vichy Shipping. Reported that following have changed their names - LEOPOLD L.D. to ALDEBARAN, FRANCIS L.D. to CEPHEE, PIERRE L.D. to PERSEE, LOUIS L.D. to FORMALHAUT.
(D.S. 829, 12/12.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Minelaying proposed, Maldives.

(i) It will be recalled that in 1923 when R.I.N. surveyed Horsburgh Atoll (Maldive Chart No. F. 070) the natives reported another survey party, found to be Japanese, had been similarly employed just prior to their arrival.
(ii) In view of this fact and strategic importance of anchorage if Japanese should establish themselves there I propose we should lay some magnetic mines across entrance now.
(iii) If you concur GLASGOW will be sent.
(C. in C. E.I., 0822Z/12 to Admty., C. in C. China, rep. C. in C. E.F.)

West African Troop Movement.

Your 1910/11. No possibility of West African troops connecting with ALMANZORA at either Mombasa or Durban. Propose they should take passage to Mombasa as convenient and await here for passage to Durban for embarkation in LAFONIA or other ship. Request P.S.T.O. Egypt be instructed to arrange Massawa Mombasa passage accordingly. (D.S.T.O. Mombasa, 0854Z/12 to D. of S.T.)

U.S.N. Collaboration.

Restrictions on information to be given to U.S. Naval Observers. Is A.M. 1159/19/4 (as amended) still in force or may restrictions now be modified. (C. in C. E.I., 0910Z/12 to Admty.)

Colombo Movements.

Arrival 0215/12 SONAVATI. Departures 0400Z/12 REVENGE, 1030Z/12, SEAMEW and SCARAB. (S.O.I. Colombo 1124Z/12 to Admty.)

Minefield.

CJ WC 93, Singapore Approaches, Durian Straight is closed to shipping.
2. Rhio Straight minefield established in area bounded as follows:
(A) On the north by latitude 0° 45' N.
(B) On the east by longitude 104° 30' 30" E.
(C) On the south by latitude 0° 42' N.
(D) On the west by longitude 104° 25' E.
(Bombay W/T, 1144Z/12 to Admty.)

Nancowry M.N.B.D.O.

Until further instructions
1. Installation of defences at Nancowry is not to be proceeded with.
2. Resources of M.N.B.D.O. (I) now in East Indies are to be retained in readiness to install further defences which may become available for Addu Atoll and in Ceylon. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1202A/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

/ORIZABA.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

ORIZABA. F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2154/10. No objection. (Admty. 1330A/12 to C. in C. E.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Addu Atoll. Your 1202/8/11 to C. in C. China, and 1250/8/11, to Admty. only. If high sick rate reported at Addu Atoll is due to local conditions immediate steps are to be taken to eliminate cause. If necessary a naval or civil specialist in Tropical Diseases should visit. Very early action is necessary. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1331A/12 to C. in C.E.I.)

Oil Supplies from Abadan. Your 2006Z/1/3 para (v) and A.D.B. para 57 (c). Maintenance of oil supplies to Australia and New Zealand is of primary importance and in view of present situation in Dutch East Indies area arrangements are being made for a large part of these supplies to come from Abadan.
2. To shorten the haul, request you will consider routeing these ships from Persian Gulf keeping West of Chagos Archipelago thence approx. Great Circle route to destination.
3. This policy would naturally depend upon future developments of scale of attack in Indian Ocean. (V.C.N.S. 1527A/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

Escort of Troop Convoys. Gen. Wavell in a personal signal has raised question of concentration of Indian troop convoys bound Burma and Malaya.
2. Convoys immediately affected are (a) leaving Sand (corrupt group) for Burma and Malaya on 16/12. (b) Leaving Madras for Malaya on 20/12. (c) Leaving Calcutta for Madras on 29/12.
3. I have advised escort for (a) should still be MANOORA as already arranged. Convoys consisting of 3 ships, 2 for Rangoon to make approach in dark hours. The one for Malaya to be routed west of Andamans so as to be clear of shore based aircraft.
4. I have promised cruiser escort for (b) and (c). Please confirm DANAE and GLASGOW can be earmarked provisionally for these duties.
5. Gen Wavell asks for information as to arrangements being made on your station to relieve my escort. Reason for his request lies in fact that responsibility of authorizing sailing of convoy rests with Governor General. (C. in C. E.I., 2242Z/12 to C. in C. E.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Fighter Protection for Battleships.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.57. In view of press statements about absence of our fighters over PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE, please report urgently circumstances in which it was found necessary to cancel the fighter protection originally arranged for these ships.
(W.O., 0300/12, to C. in C. Far East).
C.O.S.F.E. 57. Facts are as follows.
(1) Before sailing C. in C. Eastern Fleet asked A.O.C.F.E. for:- (A) R/C 100 miles to North of force daylight 9/12.
(B) R/C 100 miles mid point Singora ten miles from coast, starting first light 10/12.
(C) Fighter protection off Singora at daylight 10/12.
(2) A.O.C.F.E. was to look into these questions and give answer to C. of S.
(3) A.O.C. replied that he could provide (A), hoped to be able to provide (B), could not provide (C). (4) Above was confirmed by A.O.C. to Chief of Staff, Eastern Fleet, who signalled accordingly to C. in C.E.F., then at sea.
(C. in C. Far East 1200/12 to W.O.)

Movements.

Singapore arrival 10/12 STRONGHOLD 11/12 ELECTRA, EXPRESS, VAMPIRE and U.S. Destroyers WHIPPLE, J.D. EDWARDS, EDSALL, ALDEN. Departures 11/12 EXETER for Colombo. (S.O.I. Singapore 0109Z/12). Singapore arrival 12/12. DRAGON departure KANIMBLA STRONGHOLD, TENEDOS, ENCOUNTER, Netherlands Cruiser JAVA. (S.O.I. Singapore 0917Z/12).

Communication with U.S. Navy.

I have been unable to communicate with C. in C. Asiatic Fleet since 0500/10 and have no idea of disposition of his force except the four destroyers now at Singapore. (C. in C. E.F. 0537Z/12 to Admty.)

S.S. BENCLEUCH.

BENCLEUCH on fire at 1600Z/11 and burnt until 0615Z/12 when she sank in 053° 10' N. 038° 00' W. Complete crew picked up 48 by ATHELVISCOUNT, 10 by NANAIMO. No serious injuries. Cause of fire unknown but sabotage unit suspected at port of sailing. My P.C. and S. 053° 10' N. 038° 00' W. 222° 14 proceeding to rejoin O.N. 42. (NANAIMO 1200Z/12).

/Situation.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Situation.

Following is General Situation:-
1. Penang. All shipping has left for Indian Ports except 3 for Singapore with war stores.
2. Singapore. A convoy of 7 ships left today, 5 for Australia, 2 for Colombo via Sunda Strait escorted by JAVA, KANIMBLA and 3 destroyers. A further 40 ships are discharging and will be sailed independently via Malacca or Sunda Strait or Dutch East Indies Ports.
3. 2 Merchant Ships arrived today from Hong Kong.
4. DRAGON, DURBAN, 4 U.S. destroyers and VAMPIRE are at Singapore. THANET and SCOUT left Hong Kong and are expected Tarakan tomorrow to log and proceed Singapore. EXETER sailed 11th for Colombo via Sunda Strait.
5. 5 Dutch submarines are operating near Singora.
6. I have still no knowledge of movements of U.S. Force.
7. Ships in Dockyard hands:-
MAURITIUS at 4 days notice ready for sea about 25/12.
JUPITER at dock complete about 21/12.
EXPRESS docking for examination.
ELECTRA complete 14/12.
8. ERINPURA will be sailed escorted for Colombo with full complement of officers and ratings ex PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.F., 1401Z/12, to Admty. rep. C. in C. E.I.)

TRIOMPHANT.

On arrival at Singapore you are to report to C. in C. Eastern Fleet under whose Command you will be placed, your return to Eastern Med. being in abeyance owing to present circumstances.
(F.N.F.L. London, 1717A/12 to TRIOMPHANT).

Survivors from sunk Battleships.

Admiralty policy for disposal of survivors from PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE is as follows:-
(A) You should meet Dutch requirements mentioned in your 1031Z/12 to the full.
(B) Officers and Ratings who are medically fit, etc., may be retained on your Station to meet essential local requirements or to relieve those who have been abroad for over two years.
2. Subject to your being able to evacuate them remainder should be disposed of as follows:-
(A) Officers to U.K.
(B) Ratings to meet essential local requirements on E.I. and Med. Stations or to relieve men who have been abroad over two years. Balance to U.K.
(2nd S.L. 1721A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Shipping.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Shipping. Admty. 1915A/10, para. 1. (A). If it can be arranged, DOMINION MONARCH should proceed to New Zealand to load meat, MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE to South Africa, ORION when ready to Australia. (D.O.D. (F) 1736A/12 to C. in C. E.F.)

Japanese Troopships Sunk. Dutch S/M O.16 under my operational control reports night attack 12/12 sinking 4 troopships at Pattani Roads. (C. in C. E.F. 2304Z/12 to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

U.S. Navy Policy. Your 2001R/10 para. 4. DIOMEDE is the only British ship in the American Zone other than Canadian vessels. 2. Approved to retain "D" class cruiser temporarily for co-operation with Commandant Naval District and S.O. U.S. S.E. Pacific Force, but in view of DIOMEDE's 2301Z/8 C. in C. A. and W.I. may exchange her with DESPATCH should he so wish. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0005A/12 to B.A.D.)

MACBETH, adrift. PRUDENT sailed to your assistance from St. John's N.F. 1200Z/8 should be in your vicinity now. Tug ZWARTE ZEE sailed Londonderry 8/12 and should also be approaching you. (C.C.N.F. 0204Z/12 to MACBETH).

BABBITT. Attack on U/B. (Opnav, 0422Z/12). See U-boat Campaign.

Soviet Shipping. Two U.S.S.R. vessels ready to proceed from Seattle originally destined Vladivostok. Request instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 0831Z/12 to Admty.)

/Enemy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Enemy Report Galapagos. — Reported from U.S. sources that 2 large Naval Vessels, possibly enemy, sighted off Isla Fernandina Galapagos. Reliability of report not known. (B.A.D., 0925R/12 to Admiralty, Rep. C. in C. A. W.I.)

SANTA PAULA. — My 1705/8, not to all addressees. SANTA PAULA now sailed direct to Bathurst without escort due about 12/12. (B.A.D. 0941R/12 to Admty., Rep. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, C. in C. A.W.I., S.O.I. Kingston).

BISHOPDALE. — Your 1001/11. (Whether oiler BISHOPDALE required to attend on DESPATCH in Pacific, N.T. in W.D.) Para. C. (ii), replies no. (B.A.D., 1055R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

INDOMITABLE. — My 1225R/11 and your 1132Q/11. Intended to leave Jamaica at 1000R/13. E.T.A. Trinidad 1530Q/15. Piarco's T. 41/1. Spotter Aircraft should take off at 1245. Request 800 tons oil fuel on arrival. (INDOMITABLE, 1101/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.

Lights. — My 1543Q/10. While present operations in the vicinity of French Antilles are in progress, the wish of U.S. Authorities as regards extinction of lights should be complied with. Warning to shipping is being issued. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1152Q/12 to R.N.O. St. Lucia).
Your 1653Q/10. U.S. Authorities agree to principle that lights should remain burning unless enemy units are suspected of being in the vicinity or special operation requires their being extinguished. They are issuing instructions to this effect. (B.A.D., 1715R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I. rep. Admty.)

DESPATCH.
DIOMEDE.
CIRCASSIA.
CARADOC. — B.A.D. Washington 1221R/11 para. 5. When ships of A. and W.I. Squadron are withdrawn, I consider it most desirable that DESPATCH, DIOMEDE and CIRCASSIA should proceed to U.K. for leave and adjustment of crews before proceeding elsewhere if situation permits. CARADOC is already arranged for vide your 0035A/2/12. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1242Q/12 to Admty.)

/Sighting.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Sighting inquiry. Please report whether Du. ONDINA sighted U.S.N. Oiler SANGAMON in 34° 45' N. 70° 30' W. at 1430 G.C.T./9. (D.D.I.C. 1320A/12 to C.O.A.C., rep. Opnav, C. in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Washington Report. Washops 2. (1) Philippine Islands. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports Naval Aircraft scored bomb hit on Japanese Battleship of KONGO Class off Coast of Luzon. Ship badly damaged. This is in addition to claim of hit on Battleship HARUNA Class referred to in para. 1, Washops 1. Main targets for air raid 10th and 11/12, Cavite, Nichols, Air Port, Zablan Field and shipping in Harbour. Message from General McArthur on 12/12 and received 2332/11 E.S.T. reports 5 heavy ships and 11 destroyers off Zambalfs. Enemy have landed at Legaspi, South Luzon, and cut communications at Naga. Original landings at Appari and Vigon augmented.
(2) Hawaii. On 11/12 3 or possibly 5 submarines were sighted on the surface proceeding east in area 150 - 200 N.E. Oahu. 2 bombed by aircraft and all forced down. No further report of enemy action. Reinforcements 9 B 17 planes reported to have arrived.
(3) Midway. Situation obscure. U.S. Navy still in communication with Island at 2358/11 Pacific time.
(4) Wake. At 1800/11 E.S.T., U.S. Marines still hold Island. Total of 5 enemy bombers shot down to date.
(5) Mexico. U.S. N.A. Mexico City reports Mexico coastal patrol has orders to intercept Japanese Merchant Vessels expected off west coast.
(6) Samoa and Palmyra. Message 2358/11 Pacific time, states U.S. Navy in touch with Tutuila and Palmyra islands.
(7) Guam. At 2358/11 Pacific time, U.S. 4th army reports no communication Guam could be obtained by U.S. Navy.
(8) General. Black out reported put into effect west coast of U.S. night 11/12 owing to uncertainty of conditions and inadequate ground defence plans. Request by commercial air line to have Portland W/T silenced has been complied with.
Admty. pass to W.O. and A.M. (Joint Staff Mission, Washington, 1355R/12 to Admty. etc.)

RANPURA. Your 1228/30/10. Can a date for arrival of RANPURA now be given? (B.A.R.M. 1400R/12 to Admty.)

/ROSLIN.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

ROSLIN CASTLE, suspicious ship, 5/12.	S.O.(I) Capetown's 1737B/11 is passed to you for information. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1504A/12 to Admty.)
BARFLEUR (French).	A plane from Com Task Group 6.3 reports BARFLEUR missing. (Opnav, 1528Z/12 to Admty., C. in C. A. W.I.) See also 2031R/12.
ROXBOROUGH. O.N.S. 43.	C. in C. W.A. 1041A/30/11. Grateful for confirmation that ROXBOROUGH sailed with O.N.S. 43 and for early advice regarding expected departure from Iceland. (C.C.N.F. 1543Z/12 to N.O.I.C. Greenock, A.C.I.C).
U.S.N. Movements.	Cancel my 112208. OMAHA, SOMERS searched Fernando Noronha area, now en route Recife. Estimated depart Recife 13/12 then .15 N. 26 W. on 17th, arriving Recife 22nd. MEMPHIS, DAVIS, interrupted patrol my 012031 on 10th. Arriving Trinidad 17/12. Future service my 102157. (Opnav, 1635/12 to Admty. rep. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. A.W.I.)
ANTEO. RAPALLO. (Italian)	ANTEO and RAPALLO taken over 9/12 by Colombia Navy and crew detained ashore. (S.O.I. Kingston 1446R/12 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington, F.O.I.C. Trinidad).
VAR (French).	Ref. 2107R/4 from B.A.D. Washington (French Tanker VAR left Fort de France to take 8,000 tons fuel oil). Caripito reports ship not arrived and no information. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1518R/12 to Admty. C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D. etc.)
DIOMEDE.	Your 1001Q/11. DIOMEDE with S.E. Pacific Force sails P.M./11 to escort a ship to Galapagos. Expect to return Balboa approx. A.M./19/12. While on this operation intend reading all routines for area 10, other lines will be in use for operational purposes. S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) requested to continue sending applicable Vescas. (DIOMEDE, 1700Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

/NASTURTIUM.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Americaand West Indies-Contd.

NASTURTIUM. B.A.R.M. 1740R/11 which is being passed to you for necessary action. Report date of arrival (? to) B.A.R.M. Washington. B.A.D. Washington pass to Canadian N.A. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2006 Z/12 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Martinique, BEARN. BARFLEUR. Meter. Martinique 11/12. A.1. Naval observer reports French A.C. BEARN's Cruise: has been counter-manded and there is no change in condition BEARN Aircraft sshore. BARFLEUR has not left.
Vichy 11/12. A.1. Darlan confirmed above to Adm. Leachy and said there was no intention that French ship in West Indies should leave. (B.A.D. 2031R/12 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.).
N.I.D. Comment. Para. 1. This A.1. report that BARFLEUR has not left contradicts information in Opnav's 1528/12/12 to the effect that she was missing.

St. Lucia Intelligence. U.S. Naval Authority here have very little information of situation and unable to confirm information supplied by U.S. Army. U.S. local Naval Intelligence Centre reports
(1) no knowledge of ultimatum but it is a fact that Adm. Robert informed that any ship leaving French Island will be bombed.
(2) There is anxiety as to whereabouts of BARFLEUR. Details of identification are requested.
(R.N.O. St. Lucia, 2100Q/12 to C. in C. A.W.I. rep. Admty. etc.)

FORMIDABLE. ILLUSTRIOUS. Norfolk sailed. (N.S.H.Q. 2200Z/12 to Admty.)

PRINCE DAVID. PRINCE DAVID sailed Halifax 2030Z/12 for Bermuda. E.T.A. 1100Z/14. Gun trials will be carried out before entering. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2224Z/12 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MARSDALE. Your 1752A/2, and MARSDALE's 0530Z/9 proceed direct ship will be docked at St. John N.B. a.m./18 probable duration 48 hours. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 2232Z/12 to S.O. Western Patrol, Repeated N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, MARSDALE, Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)

/Pacific.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Pacific Coastal Shipping.

My Dis 2240/10. Instruct all coastal shipping. U.S. Vessels sailing to San Francisco or further North stop at San Diego and await orders there. (Opnav., 2350Z/12, to Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier). (repeated Admty. etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

ACHILLES.

Cancel my 1548M/8. (N.T. in W.D.) When complete with fuel return to Auckland at 20 knots. Report E.T.A. (N.Z.N.B. 0347M/12 to ACHILLES).
Your 0347/M/12. E.T.A. 0400M/17. (ACHILLES 2130Z/11 to N.Z.N.B.)
ACHILLES arrived Port Moresby by 0830Z/11.
(A.C.N.B. 0902Z/12 to Admty. etc.)
Your 2130Z/11. Adjust speed (? to arrive) Auckland 1800M/16. (N.Z.N.B., 2105M/12 to ACHILLES).

Navigation.

W.M.12. Ref. W.M.6. All Buoys and Beacons in and around Narrows Eastern Passage are being removed. Temporary Buoys can be placed if sufficient notice is given. (S.O.I. Wellington 2138M/12 to all W.M. Addressees).

MOST SECRET.

12.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

KURDISTAN.
KIRNWOOD. Have on board 32 survivors of KURDISTAN including Commodore. 28 survivors of KIRNWOOD All well. Have damaged about 15 feet of stem partly below waterline. Ship in no danger. Position 1200Z 056° 59' N., 009° 51' W. Weather report.
(KINGCUP, 1205Z/12, to C. in C.W.A.)

O.S.10. Brief account of outstanding incidents of Convoy O.S.10, attacked 31/10, 1/11, 2/11. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1914A/12 to D.A/S W., C. in C.W.A.,etc.) See Lion Copy.

Submarines Reported.

0915A/11.
1713A/11. A/S operations - 11/12. Swordfish sighted what he thought was a S/M in position 090° Europa Point 66 miles at 0915A. HESPERUS in position 325° Cape St. Vincent 36 sighted S/M bearing 328° 5 miles at 1713A.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0028A/12, to Admty.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1406A/12, 1407A/12.)

2143Z/11. D/F bearings indicate probable U-boat within 100 miles equator 020° W., at 2143Z/11.
(C. in C.S.A., 1425Z/12 to S.A.Sqdn.)

Majorca. Report from trustworthy source that one or more submarines unknown nationalities have been seen entering and leaving Calas Matsoch and Mezquida, north east coast Majorca. I am investigating.
(Consul Palma 1545/12, to S.O.(I)Gib.)

Mediterranean. Aircraft report 2 submarines on surface in 037° 13' N., 020° 42' E., course 325° 8 knots at 1133B and 037° 26' N., 019° 17' E., course 145° 6 knots at 1249B respectively.
(Malta 1613B/12, to Med. Fleet.)
At 1554 aircraft reported 2 U-boats 036° 10' N., 014° 53' E., course south.
(V.A.Malta, 1817B/12, to Med. Fleet.)

0600/12.
1200/12. At 0600/12 far out off Sagres unidentified S/M 12 knots course N.W. At 1200 very far out unidentified S/M 14 knots course N.W. At 1000 off Cape Espichel a German aircraft going north. Source A.1.
(N.A.Lisbon, 1631/12, to Admty., Gibraltar.)

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By U.S.S. BABBITT 11/12.	For information. U.S.S. BABBITT reliable sound contact at 2130 G.C.T. position 51-37 N., 43-08 W. Dropped depth charges. Darkness prevented visual examination. (Opnav, 0422/12, to C.C.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C. in C. A.W.I., Admty., Cinclant, Comtask for 4.)
By FARNDALE 11/12.	Their Lordships congratulate you, your officers and ship's company on the destruction of an Italian U-boat on 11th December, 1941. (1st. Sea Lord. 1922A/12, to FARNDALE.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

The first U.K. to Iceland Convoy, U.R.1 sailed today.

SEALION on return from patrol reports that she torpedoed and sank an eastbound unescorted ship at 1201/5 in 71° 7' N. 27° 54' E.

British Air Operations.

Aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Dunkirk and the enemy naval units at Brest last night.
Aircraft of Coastal Command successfully attacked enemy shipping off the coasts of France and Holland from 0356 to 0907 today.

Enemy Air Operations.

PUCKERIDGE (destroyer) was bombed and seriously damaged this morning off the Smalls whilst proceeding to Liverpool to escort to Scapa GUDRUN MAERSK, storeship for Operation "Anklet". She reached Milford Haven safely.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected over the Humber and between Spurn Point and Yarmouth.
Enemy aircraft were suspected of minelaying late this evening between Flamborough Head and Yarmouth.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

LOCH OSKAIG, patrolling off Lisbon reports being attacked by aircraft at 1130A: she drove off the enemy and obtained one direct hit with Bofors gun.

In view of the recent attacks on S.S. GRELHEAD, SARASTONE and BARON NEWLANDS by German aircraft in Spanish territorial waters F.O.C.N.A. proposes to attack enemy coastal trade in such waters as opportunity offers.

South Atlantic.

BRILLIANT, QUEEN EMMA and PRINCESS BEATRIX were today ordered to return to Freetown (see 9/12.)

Freetown fighters shot down a Vichy R/C aircraft p.m. today. A second aircraft which was present escaped.

Mediterranean.

4 Destroyers which left Gibraltar at 0530A/11, last night engaged 2 Italian cruisers (apparently ALBERTO DI GUSSANO and ALBERICO DA BARBIANO) and a Torpedo boat and possibly an E-boat.
It appears that the enemy was sighted by our aircraft near Cape Bon and turned back expecting T.B. attack. This enabled our destroyers to get close into Cape Bon and attack at very close range with fire initiative: the enemy fired only a few salvoes.
One cruiser was hit by 2 torpedoes from SIKH and one each from LEGION and MAORI; the second cruiser was hit by a torpedo from LEGION and was heavily hit by gunfire. The T.B. was heavily hit by gunfire from ISAAC SWEERS and LEGION claims to have sunk an E-boat or torpedo boat.

/Special ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Special air R/C confirms that one cruiser blew up and the other was on fire from stem to stern this morning. Our forces suffered no damage or casualties. V.A. Malta considers it certain that 2 cruisers and one T.B. was sunk and a second T.B. badly damaged.

At 0210B today UPRIGHT attacked two large unidentified ships believed to be warships, and one destroyer steering north at 14 knots in 40° 9' N. 17° 4' E. and secured 4 hits.

TRIUMPH sank a merchant ship and salvage tug IRENE VERNICOS in Candia harbour on 24/11 and bombarded Heraklion Aerodrome p.m./11. (Reinforcements and supplies are being flown by the enemy from Crete to Libya.)
Further successes by our submarines are also reported by C. in C. Med. today.

There were 2 air raids on Malta last night; no naval damage is reported.

East Indies.

The Admiralty have ordered mines to be laid in the entrance to Horsburgh Atoll (Maldives) and inside the harbour, as soon as C. in C. Eastern Fleet can place suitable minelaying craft at his disposal. The Japanese in 1923 surveyed this harbour, which is strategically important.

A summary of routeing instructions for shipping now in force on the station is given by C. in C. E.I. today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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SITUATION REPORT.

China.

A force of 140 ships was reported by a hitherto reliable source, off the coast of Indo-China heading S.S.W, time and position not known. The force included 100 transports with destroyers, S/Ms &c. The number of ships is consistent with 6 divisions known to be available in Japan.

Hong Kong.

The Governor of Singapore has been asked by the Japanese to enter into negotiations for the surrender of Hong Kong. He has refused. During the forenoon the Japanese demanded of the Governor of Hong Kong that he should surrender; the demand was refused.
Military withdrawal from the mainland was completed last night.

Malaya, Burma and Siam.

No convoys are to sail to Malaya from the East Indies until the situation is clearer.

Dutch S/M K.12 reports sinking an oiler off Kota Bharu today.

A.P. vessel BANKA was on the East Coast of Malaya and was recalled on 6/12. She was last heard operating W/T on 7/12 but has not arrived, and must be considered lost.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet proposes to embark and take all available surface vessels from Singapore to Colombo or Batavia, before Singapore becomes a beleaguered fortress and the naval base unsafe for ships. Any submarines available would be left to be used in the defence of Malaya by R.A. Malaya. (On 14/12 the Admiralty approved that C. in C. Eastern Fleet should proceed to Colombo when he considered it necessary.)

Penang Aerodrome has been demolished.

A signal today gives details of the Dutch minefields in Rhio Straits area.

/Mergui ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Mergui was bombed about 0530 G.M.T. At 1030 G.M.T. Victoria Point W/T Station was demolished and evacuation began.

Philippine Is. — The C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet appreciates that enemy control of the air over the Philippine Is. will become evident shortly and will threaten the facilities of the fleet base. In a long war, prevention of enemy fuelling is the strongest strategic weapon. The C. in C. Asiatic Fleet intends to operate S/Ms from Manila as long as possible with primary objective important enemy ships. All other available ships are being organised under Admiral Glassford to operate at present on the general lines Surabaya - Darwin. The C. in C. expects the British and Dutch to guard Malacca and Sunda Strait.

Wake Midway Guam. — The U.S. Navy Dept. reported early this morning that Wake and Midway Islands are continuing to resist and there is no confirmation of the alleged occupation of Guam.

America and West Indies.

At 0036Z N.S.H.Q. Ottawa reported that the U.S. C.N.O. had ordered Panama to route U.S. ships of under 15 knots on Trans Pacific voyages to San Diego to await orders, and has instructed U.S. authorities on the west coast of U.S.A. to be guided in control of shipping by the local enemy situation prevailing. In the interest of maintaining the flow of British and Allied shipping N.S.H.Q. Ottawa does not propose to amend the instructions he gave to N.C.S.Os on 11/12 (q.v.) (At 1052Q/14 C. in C. A.W.I. instructed the Consular Shipping Adviser, Panama, that British and Allied north Pacific coastal traffic should proceed.) At 1657 Opnav ordered the resumption of sailings of vessels under 15 knots to the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

At 0159 today U.S. AMERICAN PRESS reported being attacked by enemy aircraft 5 miles off Barqion (? Borinquon Point.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia.

Nauru and Ocean Islands have carried out the demolition of the phosphate loading plants.

U.S. Convoy 40 02 has been diverted from the Philippines to Brisbane. The convoy carries troops, air pilots and 90 aircraft; the latter are to be assembled and if possible sent to the Philippines.

New Zealand.

Reports indicate that the enemy is in occupation of Butaritan Island. Tarawa Island reported all clear today; the Japanese left p.m./10 after destroying launches, canoes and some buildings. There were two native but no European casualties. The island W/T station was put out of action, but hidden sets are functioning.

U-Boat Campaign.

It is reported that the tanker MYRIEL bound from Alexandria to Mersa Matruh was torpedoed this evening about 50 miles west of Alexandria but is proceeding under her own power.

The Spanish tanker BADALONA was torpedoed last night by a U-boat about 14 miles East of Malaga. The master was summoned on board the U-boat and given 10 minutes to abandon ship, despite his protests. No British or Allied S/Ms were in the neighbourhood.

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Aircraft Spares.

I propose that when VICTORIOUS next visits Iceland, 3 Albacore and 1 Fulmar in addition to normal complement should be taken and landed at Reykjavik aerodrome as spares for Squadrons embarked. Spare crews not required. Request I may be informed if A/C can be made available at short notice and whether this proposal is acceptable to R.A.F.
(C. in C. H.F., 1023A/13 to Admty.)

MAPLIN to relieve AUDACITY.

It is intended that MAPLIN should relieve AUDACITY at Gibraltar, the latter returning to U.K. to refit.
2. MAPLIN is to be sailed for Liverpool forthwith to be taken in hand by Messrs. Harland and Wolff at Bootle for progressing work on stowage for a third aircraft and fitting crane.
4. MAPLIN is to be sailed for Gibraltar with O.G.78 about 10/1.
5. AUDACITY is to return to U.K. with H.G.76 and will be taken in hand at Bootle for refit and proposed alterations.
(Admty., 1340A/13.)

Destroyer for W.A.

Request you will lend one destroyer for temporary service with C. in C. W.A.
(A.C.N.S. (H), 2356A/13 to R.A.(M).)

Co-operation with Russia.

Bad stowage of equipment &c.

Your 1431/25/11. Complaints as to bad stowage ofcargo have been closely investigated by W.O., Air Min. and M. of W.T. The pressing need of the U.S.S.R. for aeroplanes, etc. was responsible for hurried loading, and exceptionally bad weather was encountered by ships mentioned in A.C.I.C's 337/141/7. It has been decided that aeroplanes and vehicles will not in future be loaded on forward deck during winter months. War Office at very short notice requested accommodation for 50 men and S.S. CAPE RACE was most suitable ship available. Recognised that conditions were unsatisfactory and would not have been acceptable except in emergency, but best possible arrangements made in circumstances.
(A.C.N.S. (T), 2221A/13 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

JUNON, O.21. — Arrangements for sailing JUNON and O.21 escorted by CUTTY SARK at 1300A/16 for Dundee. (Capt. (S) 3, 1151A/13, 1722A/13.)

ROCKROSE, JASMINE. — Proceed from position C direct to E omit D. (C. in C. W.A., 1511/13 to ROCKROSE, JASMINE, repeated Admty., F.O.C.N.A., .C in C. S.A.)

P.37. — Arrangements for P.37 to R/V with WHEATLAND at 1700/15 for escort to Scapa. (A.C.O.S., 1745A/13 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

AURANIA. — AURANIA should be prepared for passage to Devonport in accordance with A.M. 2047A/4. When ready for sea F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship at such time as weather forecast appears favourable. Ship should be capable of 12 knots but is to be prepared to take shelter en route if weather deteriorates. (D.O.D.(H), 2219A/13 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow, Greenock.)

RODNEY. — Admiralty's 1311A/13. (i) Intend to detail ships as follows: destroyers HAVELOCK, VERITY, NEWPORT: Corvettes ANEMONE, ABELIA, VERONICA, THYME.
(ii) WALKER will be sailed about 15/12 to relieve NEWPORT.
(iii) Propose NEWPORT, WELLS, and ST. MARYS escort S.D.18 to U.K.
(iv) VANOC will be sailed about 17/12.
(v) Intend that WITHERINGTON, BLYSKAWICA, SHERWOOD, and NEWMARKET should escort T.C.16.
(C. in C. W.A., 2311A/13 and 1312A/14 to A.C.I.C)

Operations.

Operation "Kitbag". — Scapa arrival, D.3 in INGLEFIELD, INTREPID, ICARUS, OFFA, PRINCE CHARLES. (A.C.O.S., 0024A/13.)

Operation "Anklet". — A.M. 1336A/7. Intend sailing GUDRUN MAERSK escorted by ACANTHUS and EGLANTINE for Scapa 1430A/15 speed 11½ knots E.T.A. 0930A/17. Fighter protection code word "Master". (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1029A/13.)
PUCKERIDGE has been disabled by enemy action. No other new type HUNT is available other than CHIDDINGFOLD. (A.C.N.S. (H), 1557/13 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Swedish ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Swedish Merchant traffic from Gothenburg to Faeroes.

Your 1250A/12. It is essential that ships should not arrive Faeroes during dark hours. I do not like the reduction to 25 miles for obvious reasons but I am prepared to concur for the period 1st Nov. to 10th Feb. only, provided that arrangements cannot be made for the third ship to be sailed 24 hours later or if they have to sail in company for the third ship to loose 24 hours on passage.
(A.C.O.S., 1140A/13 to Admty.)
Admiralty 1250A/12th. Request you will pass my 1615/22/10 to C. in C. H.F. so that he may know that I agree to shorter intervals between westbound Swedish ships arriving at Faeroes.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1210A/13 to A.C.O.S.)

SEALION.

Returned from patrol SEALION. One unescorted eastbound ship torpedoed 1201/5 in 71.07 N. 27.54 E. 3 torpedoes fired. Range 700 yards. Sank in 50 minutes. No other attacks.
Admiralty pass to F.O.(S).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1536C/13.)

CONQUEROR.

N.O.i/c. Faeroes 1629A/12.
Fuel capacity of CONQUEROR is 220 tons estimated consumption at 12 knots is 12 tons per day.
(D.O.D. (H), 2120A/13 to A.C.O.S., (R) N.O.i/c. Faroes.)

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command Operations.

Night 12/13 December. 5 Stirlings and 16 Wellingtons attacked enemy units at Brest. 7/10 to 9/10 cloud prevailed. A/C dropped their bombs, including 5 x 4,000 lbs. and 25 x 2,000 lbs, in the target area and on S/L and flak concentrations around Brest as lit up by flares from the Stirlings. Results were mainly unseen. Dunkirk. 3 Stirlings and 5 Wellingtons reached the target area. Bombs were seen to burst on the docks causing several fires.
(H.Q. B.C., 1420/13.)

Orders for Beauforts.

AP/356, 13/12 until further notice Beaufort aircraft are not to be dispatched to attack fringe targets or shipping in harbour.
(H.Q.C.C., 2006A/13 to 16, 18, 19 Groups.)

MOST SECRET

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Operations.

PUCKERIDGE damaged.

Help "Object" 270 Smalls 5.
(Plymouth W/T, T.O.R. 0641/13.)
Have been bombed and seriously damaged, assistance tugs urgently required. My P.C.and S. 300° the Smalls 3 miles 105° 6. Request fighter protection, am making for Milford Haven.
(PUCKERIDGE, 0904/13 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
Brought in Pembroke Dock by tugs CHERBOURGEOIS and SCHELDE. Casualties appear to be 18 dead, 20 wounded.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1025/13, 1039/13, 1213/13, 1351/13, 1441/13.)

Mining.

Q.L. 4, 6, 7.

My 1114A/7/10 para. 1 Q.L. series, recent reports show that buoys off Hook of Holland have been altered possibly as the result of previous minelaying.
It is intended to carry out Q.L.4 as previously stated at first opportunity. In addition intend to carry out the following operation.
Q.L.(6) on line 140° from buoy in the chart position 052° 02'24" N. 004° 04'24" E.
Q.L.(7) on line 325° from R.W conical buoy reported in 051° 58'30" N. 004° 00'24" E.
Q.L.(6) and (7) may be regarded as alternative to Q.L.(4) if the latter proves to be impracticable.
N.O.I.C. Harwich pass BEEHIVE.
(C. in C. Nore, 1016A/13 to Admty.)

WELSHMAN.

Raise steam and proceed at 1730 today in accordance with Admty. 1231/12 arriving at point of arrival 0900/15.
2. Route as follows.
3. S. of A. 17 knots.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange fighter protection.
(R.A.M., 1032/12 to WELSHMAN.)

Enemy Intelligence.

5 destroyers at Kirkenes.

Report graded A.1 states that 5 German destroyers arrived Kirkenes on 11/12. It is possible that E-Boats with Depot Ship have also arrived.
(D.D.I.C., 2258A/13 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk, S.B.N.O. Archangel, KENT, SHEFFIELD, repeated C. in C. H.F.)

/Large vessel ...

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Large vessel.

There are indications by R.D.F. of one large enemy vessel with probably 5 or 6 escorts in 010° Cap Gris Nez Light 4.5 miles at 2245. Course south-westerly. Speed 19 knots.
(V.A. Dover, 2302A/13 to Admiralty, repeated C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth.)

Miscellaneous.

Corpach base.

Reference destroyer repair base Corpach, proposed scheme held up strong objection by local interest. Alternative adjacent site accommodation must be sought.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1150/13.)

Casualties and Defects.

AMAZON.

Arrived at 2100/12 with defects.
(N.O.I.C Oban, 0100A/13.)
Intend to sail for Greenock unless N.O.i/c Oban can hold out prospects of earlier repair or replacement than can be made at Greenock.
(AMAZON, 0315A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

MACBETH.

Your 1900A/12. MACBETH has been ordered to broadcast for D/F purposes at 0800A/13. Possibility of presence of U-Boats renders broadcasting at regular intervals inadvisable.
(D.T.D., 0132A/13 to PIMPERNEL.)

S.S. AFTERGLOW.

Thames to Seaham in F.N.76 docked Immingham after hitting wreck of WELSH PRINCE near 59 Buoy and damaging bottom. No casualties.
(F.O. Humber, 1045/13.)

WALKER.

Have developed defect. Propose proceeding to Londonderry for assistance.
(WALKER, 1556A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

WELLS.

Both oil fuel heaters top corner joints blown and corner (distorted ?). Am attempting effect repairs by 0900/14.
(WELLS, 2001A/13 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.14.

Your 1836A/3/11. (? Oiler) will not be required by RAMILLIES.
(B.S.3, 1007A/17 to Admty.)

/O.G. 78 ...

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.G. 78.
O.N. 50.
Pass to N.C.S.O's. Cancel my 1830A/5.
Amend W.A. schedule of convoy sailings as follows O.G.78 sails 10th January 1942, O.N.50 sails 24th December.
(C. in C. W.A., 1211A/13.)

O.N.44.
In R/T touch with ARABIS but hove to in violent gale. Convoy is (? already) scattered.
(RESTIGOUCHE, 1630Z/13 to C. in C. W.A.)
Are you continuing course 100° or heaving to.
Will maintainwatch on 500 Kc/s until you reply.
(CHICOUTIMI, 1630Z/13 to RESTIGOUCHE.)

S.C.56.
Average speed 6.4 knots. Continuous gales during passage and convoy hove-to twice.
All ships arrived except SCOTTISH TRADER a straggler not yet accounted for.
(D.T.D., 1720Z/13 to Opnav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

O.G.77. Arrival BLACK SWAN, DEPTFORD, FOWEY, HELIOTROPE, HESPERUS, LA MALOUINE, PENTSTEMON, CONVOLVULUS, MYOSOTIS, CARNATION, BLUEBELL, CAMPION, STONECROP, VETCH, SAMPHIRE, with convoy O.G.77. (F.O.C.N.A. 0702A/13 to Admiralty., C.in C. W.A.). C (73) 77 Gibraltar section with KINGSBOROUGH and EMPIRE KESTREL arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 0920A/13 to Admty. rep. C.in C. W.A.).

Enemy Air Patrol. There are indications that two F.O. Aircraft have been ordered to patrol area from Cape Finisterre to Cape Roca to a depth of 180 miles from Portuguese Coast. (D.D.I.C. 1116A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.).

LOCH OSKAIG A/C attack. My 2137A (N.T. in W.D.). Attack beaten off 1 direct hit with Bofors aircraft flew off towards Espichel course 150°. (LOCH OSKAIG 1220A/13 to F.O.C.N.A.). LOCH OSKAIG reports being attacked by aircraft at 1130A/13 in vicinity of Lisbon. Aircraft driven off and one direct hit with Bofors claimed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1331A/13 to Admty.).

ASTRAL. Request information as to whereabouts of tanker ASTRAL which left Aruba (D.W.I.). on 20/11 for Portugal as she has not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1224/13 to D.T.D.).

Suspicious Schooner. A two masted auxiliary schooner painted white with Spanish ensign and the name of OCCIDENTE in black on her side is suspected of operating with a U/B. in the vicinity of St.Vincent Strait. Ship is to be boarded and sent in if encountered. (F.O.C.N.A. 1239A/13 to N.A. Stn. rep. S.O. Force H.).

Use of R/T. Your 1146N/6 and 1006Z/12, latter not to Admiralty. Concur that communications between us has on occasion not been satisfactory. In the period which gave rise to your 1146N/6 some times of origin were untraceable at first due to the message being recoded and bearing a new T.O.O. Concur that originators numbers would help. Intend to reciprocate. Desire to emphasise again the corruptness which arises in type X messages which are passed by W/T especially through a link L/T communication between us appears satisfactory. (V.A.C.N.A. 1337A/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

/Enemy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

Enemy A/C Tagus. German aircraft patrolling off Tagus between 1000 and 1100 13/12. (N.A. Lisbon 1617/13 to Admty. Rep. Gibraltar).

FJORD GRELHEAD (sunk 1/12, 2/12) Attacks in Spanish Waters. My 1238A/13 (N.T. in W.D.) para (1) FJORD and S.O.(I) Gibraltar 2330A/3 GRELHEAD. While it is unlikely that these ships were outside territorial waters there is no direct proof that they were inside.
(2) In view of proven cases SARASTONE (my 1238A/13 para 2) and BARON NEWLANDS and Spanish CASTILLO OROPESA (N.A. Madrid's 1843/11/11 to D.N.I.) propose to attack enemy coastal trade in Spanish territorial waters as opportunity offers.
(3) Particularly favourable occasions appear to exist when German vessels load ore at Agua Amarga in entirely open anchorage. (F.O.C.N.A. 1622A/13 to Admty.).

OLYMPUS Intend to sail OLYMPUS p.m./15 for Malta. OLYMPUS will pass through 038° 00' (?009°) 00' E. about 2300/18 thence as routed by (?V.A. Malta). C.in C. Med. pass to Capt. S. 1. V.A. Malta pass to Capt. S. 10. (F.O.C.N.A. 1747A/13 to C.in C. Med.).

A/S air patrols. (2) F.A.A. Swordfish continuous ASV patrol 15 miles around Cape Spartel from 1830/12 to 0900/13.
(5) 3 Hudsons A/S parallel track sweep east to 01° 10' E. 0930 to 1530. 1 Hudson sighted U/B. in 36° 38' N. 02° 33' W. at 1047. No attack. Same aircraft sighted another U/B in 36° 16' N. 02° 40' W. course 045° at 1132 aircraft attacked. with 4 depth charges no hits estimated. Another Hudson sighted U/B in 36° 35' N. 01° 54' W. course 090°. Attacked with 4 D/cs. Near miss estimated. (200 Group 1810/13. F.O.C.N.A. 2246A/13).

Vichy intelligence. French N.A. informs me on instructions from Admiral Auphan that German reports notably suggestions in "Matin" that DUNKERQUE anticipated repairs are untrue. She has not been repaired. This is a private warning against German propaganda.
I asked him direct questions about bases and Darlan's meeting with Goering. He gave word of honour Petain had not ceded bases. He was certain he would know. (N.A. Madrid 2009/13).
N.I.D. Comment.
(1) According to present evidence temporary repairs only to DUNKERQUE have been completed. Ship cannot be completely repaired at Oran owing to lack of material and technical equipment.

(2).....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Vichy Intelligence. (Contd.)

(2) Rear Admiral Auphan appointed Chief of Vichy Naval Staff on 1/9/41. He is believed to have a strong anti-British bias, though a recent report (graded C.3) has stated that though outwardly a "collaborationist" at heart he is not.
(3) N.I.D. is unable to say whether any reliance should be placed on the assurance given in para. 3 above.

South Atlantic.

DALLINGTON COURT.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1035/12. DALLINGTON COURT arrived Lourenco Marques. (S.O.I., Capetown, 0859B/13 to Admty., etc.)

BENTE MAERSK.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 1215/12, BENTE MAERSK arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0917B/13.)

VANSITTART. WILD SWAN.

Following is a repetition of my 1021Z/12, begins:- addressed Consul St. Vincent (repeated B.N.A. Lisbon etc.) Request you obtain permission for VANSITTART and (? WILD SWAN) to obtain 100 tons fuel immediately after arriving at St. Vincent on 15/12. (C. in C.S.A., 1117Z/13 to VANSITTART.)

U.S. Forces.

A.M. 1809A/12. Cancel para. 1 and substitute following, (begins)
1. A.M. 0033A/2. OMAHA and SOMERS having searched Fernando Noronha area returned Pernambuco. Expect leave Pernambuco 13/12 for 15° N., 26° W., E.T.A. 17/12 returning Pernambuco 22/12. (Ends.)
(D.O.D.(F) 1155A/13 to C. in C.S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

/S.S. ROSLIN.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

S.S. ROSLIN CASTLE. Reference S.O.(I) Capetown's 1737/11 no information was received that ROSLIN CASTLE had proceeded to Capetown direct from Liverpool. (C. in C.S.A. 13122/13 to Adty.)

SAGADAHOC wreckage, suspected raider. My 1737/11. (Suspicious ship, believed Japanese, sighted by ROSLIN CASTLE.) ASTER reports that at 0220N/6 in 21° 46'S 08° 08'W, sighted numerous pieces of wreckage, quantitites of oil fuel, and picked up a lifebuoy marked SAGADAHOC New York. No trace of boats or survivors. U.S.S. SAGADAHOC due Cape Town 12/12 has not arrived.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1716/13, to Admty., C. in C.S.A., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

W.S.14. List, numbers on board, destinations, etc. (D.O.D.(F) 1834A/13 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.I.) See Lion Copy.

Operation "Pantaloon". ATHENE will discharge about 23 "Pantaloon" Hurricane dismantled aircraft at Takoradi together with about 31 Hurricane pilots including reserves fully kitted for flying on to Middle East. R.A.F.E.O. Takoradi to ascertain ATHENE E.T.A. from local Naval authorities.
(Air Min., 1910/13, to Takoradi.)

Fernando Po. Ref. telegrams from Governor of Nigeria Nos. 957. 1069. 1189. 1203 all addressed S. of S., for Colonies. You will in consultation with C. in C. South Atlantic prepare plans in case the necessity arises and you receive orders to take action against Fernando Po. Estimated garrison of Fernando Po. (details.)
(W.O., 2030/13 to G.O.C. in C., W.Africa.)

Shipping. Owing to shortage of escorts no S.T. convoy is being formed. Ships for Cape and Takoradi will be sailed in groups with local escort to end of Sector and then dispersed.
(C. in C.S.A., 2031Z/13 to Admty.)

BARBOUR. F.O.i/C Simonstown's 2127Z/3. Request whereabouts of Boom Vessel BARBOUR may be reported.
(D.B.D., 2113A/13 to C. in C.S.A.)

/VANSITTART.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. Contd.

VANSITTART
WILD SWAN
A/S Search.

Following is a repetition of my 1931Z/12 (begins) VANSITTART and WILD SWAN with flying boats cooperating will carry out search for U-boats on 16/12 on area South of Verdes. T.O.O. 1931Z/12. (Ends.)
(C. in C.S.A., 21352/13, to Admty., rep. F.O.C.N.A.)

PRESIDENTE
MITRE.
PRESIDENTE
ROCA.

My 1834Z/11 U.S.N.A., obtained verbal promise from Argentine Naval Authorities that L.O.I.P. PRESIDENTE MITRE and L.O.I.W.PRESIDENTE ROCA will not be allowed to sail until further notice. Both ships are now in Buenos Aires. I am informed arrangements are being made to remove Japanese crews after which ships may be allowed to sail.
(S.O.(I) Monte Video 2137Z/13 to Adty., Repeated S.O.(I) Freetown, R.A.S.A.D., B.N.A. Rio de Janeiro. B.N.A. Buenos Aires.

S.S.PERSEE
(PIERRE L.D.)

It is reported that Vichy Ship FOYD(PIERRE L.D.) now re re-named PERSEE escorted by sloop (?AMIRAL CHARNER) left Saigon on 5/12 with 6,000 tons rubber destined for Germany. Most important that this ship should be intercepted, reported and shadowed so that measures can be taken for her capture as her cargo represents a large percentage of Germany's deficiency in raw materials. PERSEE can steam 14 knots and if bunkered at Manila can reach Casablanca via Cape or Cape Horn without fuelling. If so she could be rounding Cape Horn about 1/1/42 or Cape about 22/12.
(C. in C.S.A., 2141Z/13, to S.A. Stn.,Sqn.)
Add to my 1931Z/12 and Cape Verde Islands Area on 15/12.
(C. in C.S.A., 2155Z/13.)

Mediterranean.

Libya.

Military Situation Reports. (C. in C.M.E., 0100/13, 1726/13 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

TRIUMPH
M/Vs
torpedoed.

Now known that TRIUMPH torpedoed a M/V and the salvage ship ELENE VERNIKOS, 105 tons, at Candia on 24/11.
(D.S. 830, 13/12.) (D.O.R. 13/12.)

/NEREUS.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

NEREUS, THRASHER. — NEREUS 0037B/13 acknowledged. THRASHER due Alexandria Sanctuary 0600B/13 from N.W. NEREUS about same time from Northward. (Capt. S.I, 0149B/13, to NEREUS, THRASHER.)

Enemy Cruiser. — P.C. and S., of enemy 1 cruiser 330° Cape Bon 10 miles 175° 22 knots. (Med. A/C A.M.9 D, 0301/13, to Hal Far.) No enemy so far located tonight except one cruiser 330° Cape Bon 10 miles course 175° 22 knots at 0301B. (V.A.Malta, 0346B/13, to SIKH.)

2 cruisers torpedoed. — Cancel my 0225A. (N.T. in W.D.) 2 enemy cruisers torpedoed position 037° 04' 011° 07'. (LEGION, 0315A/13, to Malta W/T.)

Action by SIKH, LEGION, MAORI, ISAAC SWEERS. — Preliminary report of action. 2 cruisers, 1 torpedo boat, and possibly 1 E-boat engaged. 1 cruiser hit by 2 torpedos from SIKH and 1 each from LEGION and MAORI, and the other hit by 1 torpedo from LEGION. Leading cruiser left in flames which were still visible an hour later. Fate of second cruiser not observed but she was heavily hit with gunfire as well as LEGION's torpedo. Torpedo boat heavily hit by gunfire from Netherlands Dest. ISAAC SWEERS, and LEGION claims to have sunk 1 E-boat. No damage or casualties to own forces.
(SIKH, 0734A/13 to V.A.Malta.)
C.O.'s of British ships engaged, from Admty., communique to B.B.C. and Press.
13/12:-
SIKH. Cdr. G.H. Stokes, D.S.C., R.N.
LEGION. Cdr. S. Jessel, R.N.
MAORI. Cdr. R.E. Courage, D.S.O, D.S.C, R.N.
At 0315A/13. LEGION reports 2 enemy cruisers torpedoed 037° 04' N., 011° 07' E. Special Wellington confirms 1 cruiser blew up 1 cruiser on fire stem to stern.
(V.A.Malta, 0736B/13, to Admty., etc.)
My 0736B/13. Preliminary reports as follows - enemy was sighted near Cape Bon steering southwards ahead of Group 1. It appears enemy heard special Wellington and expecting T/B attack turned back which enabled our destroyers to get close in to Cape Bon and the attack was carried out at very close range with fire initiative. Consider certain 2 cruisers and 1 torpedo boat were sunk and a second torpedo boat badly damaged. This apparently disposed of the entire enemy force. No casualties or damage to our forces although enemy fired a few salvoes at them when discovered.
(V.A.Malta, 1324B/13 to Admty rep. C. in C. Med. etc.)

/LAFOREY.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

LAFOREY, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY. — E.T.A. 1015. LAFOREY requires dockyard berth, main steam pipe leaking at bulkhead, valve joint requires remaking. EXMOOR has defect, requires dockyard assistance.
(Capt. D.19, 0805A/13, to LAFOREY, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY.)

Convoy "Arena". — Intend to sail "Arena" escorted by ERICA from Beyrout at 1730C/14, S. of A., 6 knots. Intend to sail NYMPHE with "Arena" as far as Haifa after which she will proceed unescorted to Alexandria, E.T.A., 1000B/16.
(N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports, 1030C/13, to N.O.I.C. Haifa.)

Fighter Protection. Tobruk. — Operation "Aggression". Fighter protection now available from Tobruk under control of 262 Wing, Tobruk. S.B.N.O. Tobruk pass this and further messages concerning "Aggression" to 262 Wing.
(C. in C. Med., 1031B/13, to All concerned in "Aggression".

Enemy Unit. — 1 Enemy 08.20 N., 20.15 E., G80, 10, 1018R.
(Hal Far, 1050/13, to all ships.)

Enemy Convoy. — Formation of Wellingtons sighted convoy 6 to 12 vessels, 037° 04' N., 001° 25' E., at 0140' G.M.T.,course and speed unknown.
(V.A.Malta, 1053B/13, to F.O.C.N.A., Force H.)

A.A.Brigade from M.N.B.D.O. — Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S.212 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. M.E.,A.O.C. in C. M.E., Repeated C.-in-C., India. ~~Repeated C.-in-C., India~~.
1. Request that arrangements may be made as a first priority to equip and prepare for embarkation to Ceylon for local defence and reinforcement purposes, an A.A. Brigade Group formed from personnel of M.N.B.D.O.I. as follows:-
Brigade H.Q. One Regt. Heavy A.A. of Three Btys. (24 guns). One Battery Light A.A. of 4 Troops (16 guns). One G.O.R. Four Sections R.D.F. G/L.
2. Request you will report date by which formation will be ready to sail. Formation will, from date to be notified later, be under complete operational control and administration of G.O.C.-in-C. India.

/3. To replace..

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

A.A.Brigade from M.N.B.D.O. (Contd.)

3. To replace Heavy A.A. guns of M.N.B.D.O. you may use as temporary measure 24 of the guns ear-marked for Turkey. When required for delivery to Turkey these will be returned to Turkish consignment from your own resources pending replacement from U.K.
(1st. S.L., 1108A/13, to C. in C. Med., rep. C. in C.E.I.)

Ibn Saud.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. 210 to Cs.-in-C. M.E., and Med., C.-in C.,India, C.-in-C.,East Indies, G.O.C., Iraq. In view of indications that Ibn Saud would now be prepared to join the Allies openly, we are considering military implications of a Saudi Arabian alliance. Request your views.
(1st. S.L., 1117A/13, to C. in C. Med., C. in C.E.I., rep. S.N.O.P.G.)

Vichy Fleet Alexandria.

Ref. A.M.1937A/12. (N.T. in W.D.) Vichy may decide upon strategic collaboration of a general nature with Germany in which case there is always the possibility that Adm. Godfroy would on orders from Vichy, scuttle his ships.
As before you will no doubt take what steps you can to prevent such action. Presume you have considered obtaining the assistance of French sympathisers who would not wish to see their ships scuttled but would prefer to see them used by us.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1156A/13 to C. in C. Med.)

PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

Present intention is for F.N.F.L. trawler PRESIDENT HOUDUCE to proceed to Beyrout on relief at Pointe Noire early in 1942.
2. She is not fitted with asdics but a set can be placed on board at Simonstown. 3. Conversion of whalers in South Africa is expected to utilise all resources and if you require her so fitted, Alexandria appears to be the only alternative. Training of A/S ratings will also be required. 4. Request your views.
(D.O.D.(F) 1317A/13 to C. in C. Med.)

/Enemy M/V.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.Contd.

Enemy M/V attacked.

Following has been read via Malta W/T.
Have attacked enemy vessel medium (not over 10,000 tons) with bombs dive and estimate no hits (group missing). Present visibility towards surface is 14 miles. ?My position is FUKA 1750. (indecipherable.)
(? 1525/13.)

Enemy Units Argostoli.

Following has been read via Malta W/T.
2 Destroyers, 2 M.V's leaving Argostoli Harbour.
(? 1700/13.)
2 Destroyers, 2 Merchant ships, leaving Argostoli Harbour at 1719B/13.
(V.A.Malta, 1720B/13, Capt. S.I, 1759B/13 to Subs. on patrol.)

Malta Raid. Air Operations.

Night 12th/13th. 2 alerts on 1714 to 1753 hours 1823 to 2012 hours. 7 aircraft. Bombs land sea. No casualties. Special Wellington shipping search Pantellaria, Cape Bon, Marittimo found and shadowed 3 cruisers possibly 2 D/R's which on being shadowed turned about and ran into Naval Forces.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1705/13.)

S/M's.

E. Med. S/M movements summary 72.
(A) Movements.

Submarine	Estimated noon position 14/12.	Estimated noon. position 15/12.
TALISMAN.	034° 05' N. 025° 08' E.	033°02'N., 027°30'E.

Routed through 034° 04' N., 026° 24' E.
(B) Operational sanctuary. PERSEUS and TRUANT in area P within 48 miles 038° 11' N., 020° 21' E. PORPOISE and TORBAY in area Q within 50 miles Pylos light Navarin. P.34 UPHOLDER P.31 and SOKOL on patrol line as follows operation B. S. Four-037° 10' 018° 46'- 070° - 10-160°-30.
(Capt. S.I, 1815B/13, to Med. Fleet.)

S/M Jibuti.

Op. Sum. for 24 hours ending 1500 13/12.
1 Blenheim R/C French Somaliland photographs show 1 S/M Jibuti Harbour.
(C.H.Q., Aden, 1851/13, to Air Min.)

/E-Boats.....

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War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

E-Boats Marseilles. Several reports of different gradings have now been received of German E Boats recently arriving at Marseilles via Rhone Canal. It appears probable that at least 12 E Boats arrived Marseilles at end of November. (D.D.I.C. 1859A/13, to C. in C. Med., V.A.Malta, F.O.C.N.A., F.O. Force H.)

Situation Report 175. Central Medit. Light forces leaving Alexandria 2100/13 for operation M.E.9.
2. Western Desert. My 2018/10 CS. 15's force caused damage to 2000 ton Merchant Ship and Harbour facilities in Derna. One JU 87 certain and one probable shot down in subsequent attacks. No damage to our force. My 0817/11 Italian U-Boat sunk by FARNDALE was carrying evacuees including General (drowned) from Bardia.
3. Further minelaying raids on Tobruk Harbour where three mines have been exploded. Convoy A.T.2 has unloaded and sailed.
4. TALISMAN sank large Merchant ship eastbound in 036° 23'N., 020° 33' E., p.m./11. TRIUMPH torpedoed and sank one Merchant ship and Salvage Tug IRENE VERNICOS in Candia Harbour at 1145/24.
TRIUMPH also bombarded Heraklion Aerodrome p.m./24. P.34 scored one torpedo hit on half laden 4000 ton Merchant Ship westbound in 037° 56' N., 015° 39' E., at 1330/5.
THUNDERBOLT sank 300 ton Schooner by gunfire at 1150/25 in Kithera Channel. PROTEUS sank a Caique in Kithera Channel carrying foodstuffs to Crete at 0200/8 REGENT see F.O.C.N.A.'s 1540/9.
5. Aircraft. See A.H.Q., Malta 1801/11 Albacores continue effective bombing of enemy MT. and harassing retreating columns by night. (C. in C. Med., 2007/13.)

UTMOST, UNBEATEN, UPRIGHT. Remain in position ordered in my 1034B/12 until attack or 1000B/14 then returning to original patrol line as ordered in my 0924B/11. Big game expected. (Capt. S.10, 2037B/13 to S/M's named, rep. C. in C. Med., V.A.Malta, S.I.)

/ABDIEL.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. Contd.

ABDIEL. Your 1801B/13. (N.T.in W.D.) Intend proceeding 0700B/14.
(ABDIEL, 2310B/13 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units, hit by UPRIGHT. At 0210B/13 in 040° 09' 017° 04' two large unidentified ships one destroyer (? course and speed) 000° 14 knots 4 hits.
(UPRIGHT, 2350B/13, to ? Capt. S.10.)
Amplified, see 2346B/15.

MOST SECRET

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Defence of Burma.

Following from Chiefs of Staff.
Decided that defence of Burma is to be transferred as soon as possible from C. in C. Far East to C. in C. India.
2. Burma Office are informing Governor Burma.
3. C. in C. India is requested to determine date on which transfer takes place, in consultation with other authorities concerned, and to report to Chiefs of Staff.
4. C. in C. India pass to C. in C. E.I.
5. C. in C. Far East pass to C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet.
(W.O., 0255/13 to C. in C. India, C. in C. Far East.)
Re W.O. 0255/13. In view of present situation Malaya consider we must assume responsibility for Burma forthwith. Assume this must include control of Air Forces and 204 Mission. Repeat Straits Settlements War Office and inform Burma.
(C. in C. India, 2335/13.)
When transfer takes place, C. in C. India should assume all responsibility for military liaison and strategic co-ordination with Chiang-Kai-Shek and his Military Commanders, delegating where applicable to G.O.C. Burma.
This includes control of 204 Military Mission.
C. in C. India pass to C. in C. E.I.
C. in C. Far East pass to C. in C. Far Eastern Fleet.
(W.O., 2359/13 to C. in C. India, C. in C. Far East.)

S.S. EMPIRE SNOW.

Overdue, left Durban 21/11 for Aden.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0346Z/13.)
Cancelled see 16/12.

Sub.-Lt. Devin and P.O. Masson treatment when taken prisoners to Berbera.

A.M. 1504/8/12 being passed to F.O. Red Sea and N.O.I.C. Aden. Request you will reply to Admiralty repeated me.
(C. in C. E.I., 1030Z/13 to F.O. Red Sea.)

Amendment to 2242.

My 2242 para. 2 (C) for Madras read Malaya.
(C. in C. E.I., 1138Z/13 to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.)

/Convoys ...

MOST SECRET

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoys.

Personal for Gen. Wavell from Adm. Arbuthnot. My 2002/12 not to Admiralty and C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
(1) Following has been received from C. in C. Eastern Fleet timed 0729/13 (begins). Consider convoy to Burma on 16/12 should proceed. No convoy should sail to Malaya till situation is clearer. (Ends). (2) My para. 4 and 6 must therefore be cancelled except so far as Burma portion convoy leaving Sandheads on 16/12 is concerned.
(3) Policy with regard to future (? Malayan) convoys will be signalled when situation is clear.
(4) Please inform Governor General and F.O.C. R.I.N.
(C. in C. E.I., 1152Z/13 to C. in C. India.)

Shipping.

Your 1527/12. At present shipping in Indian Ocean west of Ceylon is proceeding as before. Should it become necessary to act in (? A) D B para. 57 (C), I concur routeing oilers as suggested. Hitherto all ships have been routed to Fremantle for orders but necessary information re Australian and New Zealand searched channels will be forwarded to Abadan.
(C. in C. E.I., 1210Z/13 to Admty., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

REVENGE.

Arrival at 1015Z/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1230Z/13.)

Addu Atoll.

A.M. 1331/12. Para. 1.
Necessary action has already been initiated.
Para. 2. Reports from Addu Atoll still show (A) the health of personnel living afloat has been excellent throughout. (B) the incidence of sickness has been largely attributable to the debilitated condition of the Royal Marines after serving in Crete and Egypt the existence in the first place of marshes and dense undergrowth (much of which has not been treated or cleared) and strenuous and unavoidable manual labour in a hot damp climate. Para. 3. I am confident that these conditions will improve rapidly.
(C. in C. E.I., 1340Z/13 to Admty.)

/Minelaying ...

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Minelaying.

Your 0822Z/12. Depth of water too great for ground mines. Approved to lay a mixed field of moored contact and moored magnetic mines in the entrance to Horsburgh Atoll and also to scatter some inside the harbour. This should be done as soon as suitable minelaying craft can be placed at your disposal by C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1533A/13 to C. in C. E.I., rep. C. in C. E.F.)

Routeing of shipping.

Following is summary of routeing instructions now in force on E.I. Station.
(i) Normal routeing is to continue for all ships not proceeding East of 080° E.
(ii) Ships bound to or from ports on East coast of India and coast of Burma as far as Rangoon are when East of long. 080° to keep within 50 miles of coast until north of lat. 017°.
(iii) Ships bound for Malaya or Area 4 are to remain in harbour until further orders.
(iv) Ships bound for Australia are to proceed to Fremantle for orders but keeping at least 300 miles West of Cocos.
(C. in C. E.I., 1552Z/13.)

T.B. force for Trincomalee.

Intend forming immediately from local resources a torpedo bomber force of at least six Swordfish for operation at Trincomalee. R.A.F. are providing pilots and administration. Aircraft allocated from R.N. Air Section China Bay torpedoes from East Indies reserves.
(C. in C. E.I., 1616Z/13 to Admty.)

Ammunition.

It has been decided that 5.25 ammunition despatched from Med. to Far East in STAR OF EGYPT should now be returned to Med. Request you will re-route ship accordingly having regard to prior discharge of any other items of cargo for onward shipment to Singapore or propose alternative arrangements for shipment.
(D.T.D., 2320A/13 to C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Shipping, Manila.

Information has been received from Consul-General, Manila, that in anticipation of Japanese blockade following British ships sailed during night 11/12 Dec. for ports in Western Australia via Lombrok Channel calling at Balikpapan and Samarinda for bunkers if necessary. WOSANG, TINGSANG, PAKHOI. TAIPING-ANTRIE and possibly 2 others. Some other vessels may leave tonight 12/13 Dec.
(D.T.D., 0143A/13 to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B.)

Stone-cutters evacuated.

Stonecutters has been evacuated. All D/F instruments destroyed and all papers relating to D/F. Your 1347/10th refers.
(S.O.(I) Hong Kong, 0301Z/13 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

Malaya.

Situation Report 1430 G.M.T./12.
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0442/13 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

BANKA lost.

Auxiliary patrol vessel BANKA was on east coast Malaya and was recalled on Saturday 6/12. She was last heard operating W/T on Sunday 7th but has not arrived and must be considered as lost.
(C. in C. E.F., 0501Z/13 to Admty.)

Large Japanese Convoy.

Report from hitherto reliable source timed 1040GH/13/12 states "off Indo-China coast head S.S.W. 140 ships including 8 destroyers 1 auxiliary cruiser several S/Ms one or two A/Cs and 100 transports".
Comment. Time and position of sighting not yet known. (? Number) of ships consistent with 6 divisions known to be available from Japan.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0521Z/13 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty., C.Z.M.)

Surrender of Hong Kong demanded.

I have received a letter from Japanese C. in C. asking me to enter negotiations for surrender of Hong Kong and I have refused. Text of documents will be telegraphed as an opportunity offers.
(Governor, Singapore, 0630Z/13 to Admty.)

/Burma Convoy ...

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Burma Convoy.

Your 2242Z/12. Consider convoy to Burma on 16/12 should proceed. No convoys should sail to Malaya till situation is clearer.
(C. in C. E.F., 0729Z/13 to C. in C. E.I. repeated Admty.)

Dutch minefields.

Northern portion of Rhio Straits and adjacent Water charts affected Nos. 2403, 2413, 3834, and 2757. A protective minefield has been established area is bounded as follows.
(A) Limit of N.E.I. Territorial Waters off Islands of Batam and Bintan.
(B) Meridian of 104° 25' E.
(C) Coast of Bintan.
(D) Parallel of 01° 05' N.
(E) Coast of Batam.
(F) Meridian of 104° E.
(R.A. Malaya, 0843Z/13.)

Policy.

Looking ahead, it appears enemy's plan is gradual infiltration from North, destroying aerodromes ahead in succession possibly combining direct attack, and at moment there is an unconfirmed indication (part missing).
This will if it succeeds result in island of Singapore becoming virtually a beleaguered fortress and naval base unsafe in which to keep ships.
I see no object in remaining until this happens and would propose embarking and taking all available surface vessels to either Colombo or Batavia. If I am to be responsible for strategic control in Eastern theatre the former appears preferable as being probable port of assembly of main fleet. I would leave any submarine available to be used in defence of Malaya by Rear Admiral Malaya. I should be glad to have Admiralty's views on this matter.
(C. in C. E.F., 0845Z/13 to Admty.)

Hong Kong.

Sitrep. 12/12. At dusk 11th/12th withdrawal by carefully prepared stages was begun (details). Scale air raids during the last 24 hours has increased and damage caused to property. Continuous shelling of island a nuisance value only, although North Shore dockyard badly damaged and ordnance depot hit 5 times. Moral of civil population considerably shaken by unexpected evacuation of Kowloon. Rice distribution and monetary situation serious. Measures being urgently taken to cope with them. C. in C. Far East please pass to M.A. Communication with M.A. impossible.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0939/13 to W.O., etc.)

/Policy ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Policy regarding merchant shipping in the Far East.	Your 1915A/10 para. 3. It is impossible to forecast strength of escort required or to formulate proposals for convoy till situation clarifies. The matter will be kept under urgent consideration. (C. in C. Eastern Fleet, 1203Z/13 to Admty.)
Burma.	Reported that enemy landed at Jumbhorn have occupied Htapli and Namchoot on Packchan river North of Victoria Point. Tavoy raided at 0945 G.M.T. by 23 Jap planes which bombed and machine-gunned aerodrome for 30 mins. Planes approached in 3 waves from N.E./S.W. and W. W/T station off for short period but resumed now. (G.O.C. Burma, 1500/13.)
Japanese Intelligence.	B.A.D. Washington's 2047/10 giving Japanese ship radio calls from captured aircraft. In addition to units mentioned W/T traffic indicates at least 30 more combined Fleet Naval Units in mandated area, C. in C. 4th Fleet at Saipan, at least two aircraft carriers in Saigon Gulf of Thailand area (probably third aircraft carrier squadron) with probably seaplane tenders as well. C's in C. and 4th Destroyer Squadron believed to be as in C. in C. E.F's 1503/11* not to B.A.D. Washington. F.E.C.B. has evidence of only one battleship in Gulf of Thailand area for certain. From D/F. One of the aircraft carriers in the Gulf of Thailand area is off Songkhla.* Two Naval Units are in Paracelles area. (Singapore, 1617Z/13.) * As received.
Hong Kong.	Thursday. Stonecutters and Kowloon Dockyard evacuated. W/T Station, Armament Depot, D/F Station and other demolitions in Mainland carried out. Dockyard shelled with 5.98 fragmenting shell. Majority Chinese personnel, boats crews etc., deserted yard. Merchant ships scuttled. Military withdrawal from Mainland started. A major portion completed by 0200HI Friday. Friday. Slight bombing and somewhat heavier shelling but damage superficial. TAMAR scuttled. Great difficulty experienced throughout Colony with Chinese boats crews motor drivers, etc. During night Friday-Saturday military withdrawal from Mainland completed.

/Saturday ...

MOST SECRET

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong. (Contd.)

Saturday. During forenoon Japanese sent Delegation under flag of truce demanding surrender. This was emphatically refused by Governor. Heavier shelling and bombing may now be expected and all civilian personnel have been sent from Dockyard to Aberdeen which is also being intermittently bombed.
(Cdre. Hong Kong, 1655B/13.)

Fighter cover for PRINCE OF WALES.

57754 Cipher (M.O.10) 13/12.
Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.59.
Reference your 2/7 of 12/12, did C. in C. Eastern Fleet ask for fighter cover while at sea and subsequent to change of plan? Was Singapore kept informed as to positions of the warships after change of plan?
(War Office, 1945/13 to C. in C. Far East.)

Japanese Intelligence.

Following received from B.A.D. Washington (begins):- Manila appreciation dated 12/12 and repeated to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. Pacific and Hawaii. Begins. (1) Bearing of C. in C. 3rd Fleet is 351° on 12/12. (2) Traffic routeing indicates that C. in C. Combined Fleet is in the Chichijima area, Carrier Division 3 plus two air tenders are in Pacao area. (Ends). Are you still receiving this information direct?
(D.D.I.C., 2009A/13 to C.O.I.S. Singapore.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

A.T. 1334A/5, A.T. 2149A/5, A.C.N.B's 1359Z/11 and F.N.F.L. London's 1717A/12. F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT is to be considered as being under your direction now.
2. Visit to Noumea is desirable but this is subject to your operational requirements.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2358A/13 to C. in C. E.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.12.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping.

U.S. C.N.O. has ordered Panama to route U.S. Flag Ships of under 15 knots on trans-pacific voyage to San Diego to await orders. He has also instructed U.S. Authorities on West Coast U.S.A. to be guided in control of shipping by local enemy situation prevailing.
2. In interest of maintaining flow of British and Allied shipping it is not proposed to amend instructions to N.C.S.Os given in my 1507Z/11. Do you concur?
3. Early decision most desirable regarding U.S.S.R. vessels and other ships from West Coast for Vladivostok.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0036Z/13 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., N.O. Wellington, A.C.N.B., S.O.I. Jamaica.)
Your 0036Z/13. As majority of British trans-pacific shipping is bound New Zealand and Australia it would appear preferable for such ships now at Panama normally to be routed east of Galapagos Islands and Easter Island thence to Wellington using maximum dispersion of routes. Request you will however conform to wishes and recommendations of C.N.O. vide B.A.D. Washington's 1307R/9 para 2. 2. Question of destination of Russian ships is being taken up with Russian authorities in London.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1915A/13 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Japanese Fleet Intelligence

Following message addressed D.N.I.(Melbourne) and S.O.(I) Wellington T.O.O. 0403Z/10th received from C.O.I.S. Singapore, C. in C. Southern Expeditionary Force and C. in C. Combined Air Force at Saigon, C. in C. Combined Fleet and C. in C. 3rd Fleet at Sama, C. in C. South China Fleet, Hong Kong area, C. in C. 4th Fleet, Truk area. One of 3rd aircraft carrier squadron operating off Songkhla other off Pula Condore. One battleship 3 cruisers 11 destroyers off N.E. Malayan coast.
(B.A.D., 0107R/13 to Admty. amended 0827R/13.)

DIANTHUS.

My 0001Z/11. Charleston Navy Yard returned DIANTHUS for minor repairs which will probably take 2 or 3 days.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0305Z/13 to Admty.)

"R" Report, VINCENT.

Following received from Bermuda in plain language 'Following received RRRR Lat. 22.41 S. Long. 118.19 W. 7 PM course 62°, 10 knots, S.S. VINCENT, suspicious orders. SOS DE KIZS'. (Ends) (B.A.D. 0310R/13 to Admty.)
Intercepted by DESPATCH 2212R/12 R.R.R.R DE (U.S) VINCENT in position 025.41 S. 118.19 W. 1900 course 062° 10 knots.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 1123R/13 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I., D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington, Capt. O.S. Singapore.) W.D. Note.- Difference in latitude position.

/H.M. Tug ...

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

H.M. Tug BUSY. — Kingston arrival with defect. Seems likely due to faulty design. Matter under investigation. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 0945R/13).

INDOMITABLE. — Admty. 2125A/10. Request you will sail INDOMITABLE from Trinidad p.m./17 for position. (a) 005° 00' N. 046° 00' W. Request C.in C. S.A. communicate onward route. INDOMITABLE report intended S.of A. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1112Q/13 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

U.S. Forces. — Following is disposition of U.S. Force. Off Antilles 2 submarines; off Pointe A Pitre on west side of Martinique off Fort De France, cruiser CINCINNATI, destroyers BARNEY, BLAKELEY, JOUETT; on east side of Martinique aircraft carrier WASP, cruisers BROOKLYN, SAVANNAH, and 3 destroyers. All ships at action station. Ultimatum not yet delivered. French ships have steam up and boats hoisted. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1115Q/13 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

AMERICAN PRESS A/C attack. — 0159 13/12 (U.S.). AMERICAN PRESS S.O.S. being attacked enemy airplanes position 5 miles off Barqion. Suggest this Borinquem Point. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1128R/13 to Admiralty. C.in C. A.W.I. D.N.I. Ottawa, B.A.D. Washington).

S/M SURCOUF. — Ref. 1748A/2. Request you sail French Cr. S/M SURCOUF from Halifax on 16/12 for position (a) 021° 00' N. 040° 00' W. (2) C.in C. S.A. is requested to communicate onward route from (a). (3) C.O.A.C. Halifax is requested to report E.T.A. at position (a). (C.in C. A.W.I. 1242Q/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

CIRCASSIA — Your 1901Z/12 indicates that policy in your 1059N/5 is changed. Request confirmation as CIRCASSIA is in H 32 B. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1252Q/13 to C.in C. S.A.).

S.C.60. — Taskunit 4.1.1. 5 SAGUENAY, S.O. MIMOSA, ACONITE, ALYSSE, DAUPHIN, SPIKENARD, WETASKIWIN, SHEDIAC. (ii) Wabana. Nil. (C.C.N.F. 1308Z/13 to Admiralty. Cmdr. Task Force No.4.).

Washops.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

Washops. 3.
(1) Philippine Is. Message from McNethur received 0330 E.S.T./13 reports enemy ground activities unimportant and sporadic and confined to Legaspi Vigain and Aparri. Cebu Island and Clark Field bombed early forenoon 12/12. Message received from C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports after enemy raid on Olongapo (?5) 7 PBY patrol planes were destroyed on water, about 12 remain in serviceable condition.
(2) Hawaii. C.in C. Pacific Fleet reported on 12/12 several S/M contacts all south of Oahu. 3 depth charged and one bombed resulting in air bubbles in one case and oil slicks in all. 7 types of Japanese planes reported to have taken part in Oahu (?raid) 7/12. One latest type fighter a fleet bomber and observation plane in possession of U.S. forces.
(3) Midway Is. and Wake. Messages received 0820 and 0900E.S.T./12 report both islands still in U.S. hands.
(4) Johnson, Palmyra and Samoa Island. U.S. Navy reports in communication with these islands at 0600 Pacific time 12/12.
(5) Guam and Gilbert Island. Guam and Tarawaiu Island in Japanese hands.
(6) Java. 18 Dutch bombers landed Sembawang 9/12 according to report by U.S. observer at Singapore.
(7) South America. U.S. Navy reports 6 flying boats PBY 5 arrived Natal 11/12.
(8) Japanese Naval (?casualties) (?claimed) to date sunk, one cruiser, one destroyer, one submarine; damaged, Japanese battleships HARUNA KONGO.
(9) General.
(a) U.S. Air R/C Galapagos area yielded no result.
(b)Air R/C coastal area Cape Mendocino to San Francisco yielded no result.
(c)Report of parachute landing Oregon proved false.
(d)Report BARFLEUR had left Martinique proved false.
(J.S.M. Washington 1327R/13 to Admty. etc.).

FORMIDABLE ILLUSTRIOUS. Your 2217/3/10. State of FORMIDABLE prior to sailing from U.S.A. (A) to (E) and (G) minimum requirements. (F) Minimum requirements negative type 285. (H) Only five serviceable. (I) Yes. State of ILLUSTRIOUS not reported by ship prior to sailing but is similar to FORMIDABLE except (H) six serviceable. (B.A.R.M. 1332R/13 to Admty.).

Martlets.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

Martlets. Your 1339/9. Aircraft can be disembarked by air if pilots are provided. Martlets in ships on sailing FORMIDABLE 9, ILLUSTRIOUS 23. Investigation possibility of shipping remaining 16 in ARCHER.
(B.A.R.M. 1440R/13 to Admty.).

Ballast of ships in Convoy. Following from Commodore Candy Convoy O.N.40. Consider outward bound ships should be ballasted considerably more than at present such ballast to be properly stowed. Cost is realised but safety of ships would be achieved and convoy kept intact making full use for the complete route of efficient escort organization.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1602Z/13 to C.in C. W.A.).

Whale Factory ship. Bermuda's 0030Q/11.
1. Request source of information and name of whale factory ship.
2. Admiralty have no knowledge of any such ship in this area.
3. Have other interested authorities been informed.
(D.D.I.C. 1625A/13 to S.O.I. Bermuda).
Your 1624A/13 (1625A/13 intended) (1) and (2) source S.O. (I) Callao. Name probably THORSHAMMER reported by S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1519R/26/10 to C.in C. A.W.I. only to be in whaling ground off Peru with seven whalers.
(3) S.O.(I) Callao 0030R/11 was passed to B.A.D. and S.O.(I) Jamaica.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1559Q/13 to Admty.).

Shipping. Resume sailings vessels under 15 knots to Far East Australia and New Zealand via approximate great circle giving Galapagos and Cocos wide berth and passing South of Chatham Island to Wellington for further orders and routeing. Instructions regarding JAMES LYKES will follow.
(Opnav 1657/13 to Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier).
Ref. My 1757/10 (N.T. in W.R.). In order clear danger area route Transpacific shipping by diversified tracks to Eastward Marquesas and South of Tahiti and Chatham Islands to Wellington for further orders and further routeing.
(Opnav 1723/13 to Cincpac, Cincaf, Comdr. South Pacific Naval Coastal Frontier).

/ U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

U.S. Convoy 40 02.

U.S. convoy 40 02 diverted from Philippine Is. is due Brisbane 19 and contains 2,600 air corps. troops including 48 pilots and 2,000 other troops. Also guns and ammunition and 90 aircraft.
(2) C.O. ordered to assemble planes and if possible send them and pilots to Philippine Is. balance of pilots to come from Philippine Is. or possibly Australia.
(3) Troops and equipment to be sent if feasible to Philippine Is. If not feasible they are to be unloaded in Australia and used with primary object of aiding the defence of Philippine Is. and secondary object of aiding allies of U.S.
(B.A.D. 1746R/13).

Dispositions.

Request estimated positions of H.M.A. ships may be included in your daily situation signal to O.P.N.A.V.
(2) Can present and intended dispositions of British and Dutch naval forces in Far Eastern Area now be given.
(B.A.D. 1747R/13 to Admty.).

Publicity.

Question of release of operational news and mutual arrangements for collaboration should be covered by A.B.C.-1, page 5 para. 15 and 16 under "Military Policies and Plans governing Conduct of the War".
2. Consider issue of operational news should be responsibility of that Power under whose strategical direction the area in which the incident occurred lies.
3. If specifically desired to stop or delay the issue of certain news propose this should be so indicated by the responsible Commander in Chief by the insertion of a request in his signalled report to withhold or delay publication.
4. Understand U.S. Authorities are in full possession of all our methods.
5. Request you will take this matter up with appropriate authorities and inform us of arrangements made.
(V.C.N.S. 1829A/13 to B.A.D.).

U.S. Shipping Codes.

Your 2326/8 para. (ii) It is intention that all U.S. Merchant ships be issued with Merchant Navy Code as far as supply allows. Opnav has replied tp Spenavo 1024/13 re issue of M/V books in affirmative and requesting confirmation of books to be issued. Should S.P.02404 be included and if so what are arrangements for supply to U.S. authorities? Ottawa are being asked whether they can spare any M.N. codes.
2. C.S.P. 938 is being superseded by C.S.P.939

/but.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Shipping Codes. -Contd.

but Navy Dept. are aware of slender security Flat strip with different strips for each ship are also about to be issued to M/V's. further details re this will be signalled.
(B.A.D. 1935R/13 to Admty.).

Derelict Barge.

Following has been reported.
Derelict oil tank barge marked Poling Brother's number 9 and 37 16 floating in position 055° 27' N. 036° 27' W. at 0945Z/12 4.
Final passage (6 groups) indecypherable.
(ST. LAURENT 2000Z/13 to U.S.C.N.O.).

Casablanca Intelligence

Algiers 11/12 B.2.
S.S. GREVY escorted by destroyer X 93 arrived Casablanca from Marseilles with 1,000 Annamite troops and 1 company French motor-cycle troops.
(B.A.D. 2035R/13).
N.I.D. Comment. GOUVERNEUR GENERAL GREVY enemy merchant vessel.
Casablanca 12/12 B. 2. S.S. SAVOIE? BELLE ISLE, CONDE, FORT DOUAUMONT, suddenly taken off other duties are to sail p.m./12 or A.M./13 for Dakar with 1200 Senegales troops.
(B.A.D. 2055R/13 S.O.I. Freetown. Rep. Admty. S.O.I. Gibraltar).
Casablanca 7/12 B.2. (1) Arrivals CAUDEBEC 3/12 Lisbon. FORT DE DOUAUMONT 7/12 Marseilles. MONTVISO 7/12 Martinique. THISBE 8/12 Marseilles. AUGUSTE DENISE 8/12 Oran. MONT CASSEL 8/12 Oran.
(2) Departures MONTAIGNE 4/12 Marseilles. MANCEEN 10/12 Marseilles. ILLINOIS 10/12 Marseilles.
(3) THISBE carried 2,000 tons coal and 60 military kitchens.
(4) Do you require arrivals and departures Spanish and Portuguese shipping.
(B.A.D. 2059/13 to S.O.I. Freetown, Gibraltar, Admty.).
N.I.D. Comment. Possibly LILLOIS.

Dakar Intelligence

Following submarines are based Dakar.
CONQUERANT, TONNANT, ARORE, CERES, PALLAS, VENUS IRIS, and one other name reported as NYMPHE.
Dakar 12/12 A.1. S.S. TOURS, VILLE DU HAVRE, CHELMA arrived 9/12 from southward. B.2. Coal stocks at Dakar 1/12 8723 metric tons, during November PLATON arrived with 2009 tons SAINT CYRILLE 840 tons and CARTHAGE 2661 tons.
(B.A.D. 2045R/13.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

CAP DES PALMES. — Arrived Noumea 0200 G.M.T./12. (B.N.L.O. Noumea 0525Z/13 to Admty.).

LEANDER
ACHILLES
MONOWAI — Following are anticipated movements of New Zealand naval forces.
(1) LEANDER. Escorting WAHINE carrying reinforcements for Fiji sailing Auckland 15th and 22/12. Due Auckland finally 28/12.
(2) ACHILLES. Available to escort MARIPOSA from Auckland to eastwards A.M./17.
(3) MONOWAI refitting. Ready for sea A.M. Saturday. Probably required for escort to south east New Zealand.
(N.Z.N.B. 0831N/13 to A.C.N.B. etc.).

Situation. — No further enemy activities Australia Station since 11/12 beyond several unconfirmed reports of presence of aircraft and ships Tabar Island Kessa Point (New Guinea Zone). Nauru and Ocean Island have carried out demolition Phosphate load plant. Report from New Zealand Station indicates that enemy is in occupation of Tarawa and Butaritari (Gilbert Group) where Japanese light naval force (number not definitely known) are present. Portion of Japanese South China Fleet is now in Jaluit Area (Marshall Islands) but composition is unknown. C.in C. U.S. (?Pacific) Fleet and C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet please pass to Cmdg. General U.S.A. F.F.E. Manila and Cmdg. General Hawaiin Dep. Honolulu, respectively. (A.C.N.B. 1503Z/13 to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

YENICE. — Now known that Turkish YENICE, ex CIDE, 428 tons, sunk by unidentified S/M off Burghaz prior to 22/11. Master and Mate saved, rest of crew believed drowned. (D.S.830, 13/12.)

CYNTHIA OLSEN. — Attacked by U/B, on surface, probably Japanese, 1900/7, 33.42 N., 145° 29' W., 1300' W., of Los Angeles. Result not known.
(D.S. 830, 13/12.)

Submarines Reported.

D/F Bearings indicate a U-boat to be within 100 miles of 007° 30' N., 022° 30' W., at 0055Z/13.
(C. in C.S.A., 1305Z/13, to S.A.Sqdn.)

Estimated approx. positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1429A/13, 1430A/13.)

1845/12. — U-boat reported in 260° Cape Sardao 7 miles, steering 000° at 1845/12.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2031A/13, to SCOTTISH, LOCH OSKAIG.)

1847 G.M.T. — By D/F at 1847/13 G.M.T; position of U-boat was 49° 00' N. - 51° 00' N., 14° 00' W. - 16° 00' W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2203A/13.)

1925. (Med.) — U-boat reported in 031° 50' N., 029° 00' E., at 1925/13.
(C. in C. Med., 2234B/13, to Med. Stn.)

1047.
1124.
1225. — 967, Aircraft sighted S/Ms on surface today 13/12 as follows. (a) at 1047A in 036° 40' N., 002° 40' W., not attacked. (B) at 1124 in 036° 15' N., 002° 40' W., attacked with D/Cs but missed. (C) at 1225 in 036° 18' N., 002° 00' W., attacked with D/Cs near miss.
(2) Aircraft flying at about 1500 feet.
(3) All S/Ms apparently patrolling.
(200 Group, 1810/13, F.O.C.N.A., 2246A/13, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

13.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By ROCHESTER 1929.	1 Submarine bearing 200 distance 6 miles my position 30.10 N., 22.12 W. (ROCHESTER, 1929/13, to Whitehall W/T.) My 1929. 4 pattern depth charges dropped. Contact not regained. Am rejoining convoy. (ROCHESTER, 2215Z/13, to C. in C.W.A., F.O.C.N.A.)
By A/C.	North Atlantic. See 200 Group 1810/13, and F.O.C.N.A., 2246A/13. S/M's Reported.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Recent developments in the Far East have made it necessary to alter the plans for the composition of the Eastern Fleet. Vice-Admiral Tait is to command the 3rd B.S. Rear-Admiral Bonham-Carter (3rd B.S.) is to haul down his flag at Sierra Leone and return to the U.K. to take command of the 18th C.S. Rear Admiral Syfret (18th C.S.) will relieve Vice-Admiral Sir James Somerville as S.O. Force H.

Mining.

Enemy aircraft, apparently engaged in minelaying operated between Flamborough Head and Yarmouth last night.

North Atlantic.

S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC is reported to have sailed from Oran at noon today.

South Atlantic.

It is reported that Vichy S.S. PIERRE L.D., now renamed PERSEE, escorted by a sloop left Saigon on 5/12 with 6,000 tons of rubber destined for Germany. This cargo represents a large percentage of Germany's deficiency and it is most important that the ship should be intercepted. PERSEE can steam 14 knots and if bunkered at Manila could reach Casablanca via the Cape or Cape Horn without fuelling; if so, she could round Cape Horn about 1/1 or the Cape about 22/12.

/DEVONSHIRE...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

DEVONSHIRE reports that certain retubing of her boilers is essential. B.A.R.M. has been asked whether tubes are available in America.

Mediterranean.

URGE reports that at 0858B today she obtained 2 hits on the rear ship of two Italian battleships of the CONTE DI CAVOUR class screened by destroyers, steering 200° in 37° 53' N., 15° 29' E. At 0945 one battleship and one destroyer were seen; nothing was seen of the second battleship. At 0900B one battleship passed out of range of UNIQUE in 37° 42' N., 15° 42' E. steering 95° at 19 knots and UNIQUE was counter attacked whilst endeavouring to close.

TALISMAN engaged a U-boat with gunfire at 1950/14 in 34° 5' N., 25° 39' E., and obtained hits at the base of the conning tower. The U-boat is thought to have sunk.

GALATEA sunk.	GALATEA was torpedoed by a U-boat and sank at 2359 today, 30 miles west of Alexandria.
Libya and Western Desert.	10 Wellingtons laid mines last night in Benghazi harbour whilst 4 others caused a diversion by dropping bombs.

East Indies.

The submarine threat to Aden apart from Vichy S/Ms is considered to be small and the blockade of Jibuti is to take precedence for the present over A/S defences of Aden. C. in C. Med., has been asked to sail 2 sloops and 2 minesweepers forthwith to join the East Indies Station.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Strategic control of the U.S. Naval forces in the Far Eastern area is being exercised from Washington. C. in C. Eastern Fleet reports that this probably explains why he is unable to obtain any communication from Admiral Hart. Five different authorities control strategical naval dispositions in the Far East, namely British, U.S.A., Dutch, Australian and New Zealand.

Hong Kong.

The Japanese appear to be collecting ferry launches and junks on the Kowloon side. There are grave difficulties with the civilian populace.

A huge fleet is reported in Camranh Bay today, U.S., C. in C. Asiatic Fleet is unable to provide R/C.

Malaya, Burma and Siam.

4 U.S. destroyers left Singapore today to join Admiral Glasfurd by order of Washington.

3 Italian ships interned at Puket have been scuttled.

The position in Penang is serious as the result of daily air attacks. (The main cables to India and the U.K. pass through Penang).

Borneo and N.E.I.

The U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet has advised Singapore and Batavia to destroy immediately the Borneo oil fields except Balikpapan, and to destroy the latter soon.

Philippines.

A major enemy landing is expected after 14 days time.

U.S. aircraft attacked a battleship, probably of the HARUNA class today, and claim 3 hits and one near miss, the ship being last seen on fire. Bombers also seriously damaged at least one transport at Legaspi.

Islands.

Midway and Wake Islands are still in U.S. hands. Wake reports two further bombing attacks, one of which was by 4 engined seaplanes.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

New Zealand.

A message received 0241/14 reported enemy landing at Tarawa and Makin; one cruiser and 2 destroyers off Tarawa.

Conton (Phoenix Islands) is highly important for proposed air ferry and has been reinforced from Honolulu. Christmas Island is also being reinforced. S.S. LUDINGTON is carrying guns to Suva (Fiji) where the completion of Mandifield is being rushed.

It is reported that U.S. cruiser PENSACOLA left Suva today escorting a convoy to Brisbane.

U-Boat Campaign.

U.S. cruiser BROOKLYN's aircraft attacked U/B today in 16.07 N., 60.12 W., and thinks she destroyed it.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

3rd B.S. and 18th C.S. Commands.

Recent developments in Far East have made it necessary to alter plans for composition of Eastern Fleet. It has been decided that Vice-Admiral Tait will command Third Battle Squadron. You are to haul down your flag at Sierra Leone and return to U.K. to take command of 18th C.S. vice Syfret.
(Naval Secretary 2125A/14 to R.A.C. 3rd B.S.)

BOREAS.

Your 1045/13. BOREAS is required for escort duty leaving U.K. about 7/1. 2. On completion of refit request you will sail her for the Clyde where a few days working up practices can be arranged.
(D.O.D. H. 1623A/14 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

JAVELIN.

On completion of repairs and satisfactory trials request you will sail JAVELIN for Scapa to work up before joining Mediterranean Fleet.
(D.O.D. H. 1734A/14 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Force H. 18th C.S. Commands.

Rear Admiral Syfret has been selected to relieve Vice Admiral Sir James Somerville as senior officer Force H. Rear Admiral Syfret should return to U.K. from Murmansk in KENT unless earlier opportunity arises hauling down his flag on leaving EDINBURGH. Rear Admiral Bonham-Carter will subsequently assume Command of 18th C.S. Pending his arrival C. in C. H.F. is requested to arrange for administration of 18th C.S. (Naval Secretary 2132A/14.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian Shipping.

Following from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa begins. Two U.S.S.R. vessels ready to proceed from Seattle originally destined Vladivostock. Request instructions. Ends. 2. Request you will obtain early decision from Russians as to these and similar ships in future. 3. The alternatives appear to be (a) Persian Gulf via Panama. (b) Persian Gulf via Australia southabout which is slightly longer than (a) on routes possible in present circumstances. (c) Archangel via Panama if ships are of convoy speed.
(A.C.N.S. T. 1452A/14 to Ad. Miles.)

Movements.

BERWICK.

My 1715A/12. Sailing of BERWICK delayed.
(C. in C. H.F. 1021A/14 to CUMBERLAND.)
My 1715A/12 and my 1021A/14. BERWICK sails for Hvalfjord at 0910A/15 with stores as in your 1141N/13.
(C. in C. H.F.2346A/14 and 0203A/15 to CUMBERLAND)

/P.38 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

P.38. Leave patrol after dark 15th through 49° 30' N. 13° W. diving by day routed by (a) 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles (b) 180° Lizard Head 25 (c) 180° Start Point 25 to R/V in vicinity of Start Point at 0930/19, keeping West of position (c) until 0600/19.
(Capt. S.5. 1050A/14 to P.38.)

SUFFOLK. At 1130 G.M.T/14 76 miles 250° from position V.
(SUFFOLK 1130/14.)

WITHERINGTON
SHERWOOD
NEWMARKET. My 1637A/13. WITHERINGTON, SHERWOOD and NEWMARKET should be sailed to Iceland as soon as ready. Provided no undue delay is incurred, ships should be sailed in company.
(C. in C. W.A. 1135A/14 to Capt. D. Londonderry.)

P.39
H.32. Your 1501A/13/12. Consider it would be better to arrange R/V off Lizard or Wolf Rock at a later time. H.32 would have to be routed W. of Scillies to keep R/V off Trevose.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1126/14 to Capt. S.7.)
(i) Intend to sail P.39 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1700A/16 for 290° Bishops Rock 5 miles. E.T.A. 1900A/18. (ii) Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE to R/V with H.32 in 260° Trevose Head 8 miles at 0830/19 and escort her to Rothesay. (iii) Thence P.39 diving by day direct to 043° N. 010° 30' W. E.T.A. 0100A/22, thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
(Capt. S.3. 1139A/14.)
C. in C. Plymouth 1126A/14. Cancel my 1501A/13. H.32 is to R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 235° Wolf Rock at 0830A/19. Captain S.3. is requested issue necessary orders to LA CAPRICIEUSE and to request fighter protection. Captain S.5 to order waiting position for H.32 south of Wolf Rock and to arrange bombing restrictions until R/V has been made. Capt. S.7 will arrange lights.
(Capt. S.7. 1536A/14 and 1624A/14.)

WALKER. Your 2203A/13. Intend sailing WALKER from Londonderry at 1600A/14 in execution of your 1229A/13.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1154A/14 to C. in C. W.A.)

/ST. ALBANS ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - contd.

ST. ALBANS.
MONTROSE.
WORCESTER.

1. ST. ALBANS is to leave Sheerness and take station as ordered by MONTROSE and proceed in company by Swept Channels and Q Z S 287 and 277 to Londonderry passing close Westward of 59, 59a and 62 Buoys. 2. MONTROSE and WORCESTER will part company as requisite and proceed to Invergordon as previously ordered, ST. ALBANS proceeding independently to Londonderry.
(C. in C. Nore 1246A/14.)

MAPLIN.

A.M.1340A/13. Request you sail MAPLIN to arrive 1200A/16.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1249A/14 to F.O.I.C. Belfast)

ST. MARYS.

Intend sailing ST. MARYS for Hvalfjord 1430A/15 at best speed consistent with weather.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1522A/14.)

SPEEDWELL.

My 1248/12. Sailing delayed owing to non-arrival of stores. It is hoped to sail ship p.m. tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1549A/14 to A.C.O.S.)

CONQUEROR.

Proceed to Campbeltown.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1739A/14 to CONQUEROR.)

TUNA,
BEAGLE,
PEONY.

Anticipate you will overhaul TUNA escorted by WHITE BEAR northbound before 2100 tonight.
(C. in C. W.A. 1749A/14 to BEAGLE, reptd. PEONY.)

Operations.

Denmark Strait and Iceland - Faroes Patrols.

Your No. W.01102/1000 dated 8/12/41. Concur generally. I hope to have sufficient warning to reinforce patrol with a second cruiser and intend to leave the positioning to S.O. on patrol. I hope shortly to be able to reinforce forces on patrol by 2 corvettes. 2. When searching for inbound traffic intend supporting force to be to N.E'ward.
(C. in C. H.F. 0106A/14 to C.S.1.)

Operation "Anklet".

PRINCE CHARLES and BEDOUIN sailed 0330.
(A.C.O.S. 0151A/14 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)

/Intend ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Operation "Anklet". contd.

Intend to sail LAMERTON from Falmouth 1400/15 by standard routes to Scapa. Speed 21 knots. E.T.A. 0800A/17.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1147/14.)
Intend sailing P.J. CHARLOTTE and PRINCE ALBERT in company at 0830/15. Request you issue onward routeing instructions.
(V.A. C.T.C. 1149/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Intend sailing PRINCE CHARLES and BEDOUIN 0300/15. E.T.A. Scapa 0900/15.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1425/14.)
Owing to weather forecast. KRAKOWIAK is not to sail until further orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1544/14.)

SEAWOLF.

Cancel my 122590/12. Resume patrol. Admiralty pass on next H.S. routine.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1510Z/14 to SEAWOLF.)

Interception of Heavy Units.

Keep a good look out for any heavy enemy warships which may be taking advantage of weather to break out from Brest to South Westward.
(F.O.S. 1618A/14 to REGENT, UNA, P.35.)
My 1618A/14. Proceed to patrol in vicinity 046° 20' N. 009° W. for 24 hours continuing your passage to Portsmouth after dark tomorrow.
(F.O.S. 1949A/14 to REGENT.)

Swedish M/Vs from Gothenburg.

Your 1250A/12 and O.C.O.S. 1140A/13. Concur with A.C.O.S. that ships must not approach Faroes during dark hours. I consider the 50 mile interval should be maintained and that if necessary the Swedes should be told that only two ships may pass in one day.
(C. in C. H.F. 1926A/14 to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing operations.

Night 13/14. All operations were cancelled owing to unfavourable weather.
(H.Q.B.C. 0930/14.)

S.B.R.

Request following submerge bombing restrictions.
(Capt. S.5. 1100A/14 to A.O. C. in C. C.C. Rept. H.32, REGENT, P.38.)

A/C Complement of VICTORIOUS.

C. in C. H.F. 1023A/13. Air Officer Commanding Iceland is agreeable.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland 1116N/14.)

/Vichy A/C ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. - contd.

Vichy A/C. Amendment signal No.10 to S.D. 158 (IB) para. 5 delete the first sentence and substitute the following :- "Aircraft are to fly at a height not exceeding 7,000 feet and below cloud". After paragraph 2 insert new main heading "Vichy Aircraft" and new para. 2A as follows:- "(1) Any aircraft whether civil or military encountered North of lat. 44° N. over the sea or over British Territory and clearly observed to bear Vichy French markings is to be treated as hostile and engaged. (11) Vichy French markings are the same as the national markings of French Aircraft shown in A.P.1480 D". (Air Ministry 1705/14 to List 158.)

Mining.

Off Cromer. At 2021/8 one red Mine exploded by LEEDS in 53° 13' N. 1° 5' E. Details. (LEEDS 0930A/14.)

WELSHMAN. Adjust speed to arrive Breakwater 0930/15. (C. in C. Plymouth 1032/14 to WELSHMAN.)

Off Aldborough. LL Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1415A/ in 52° 14' 30" N., 1° 56' 30" E. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1454A/14.)

Humber. Magnetic mine exploded today at 1550 in 082° Humber L/F. 1.5 miles. (F.O. Humber 2006A/14.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Large Vessel. My 2302/13. Vessel is either stopped close off or has entered Boulogne. (V.A. Dover 0028A/14.)
My 0028. Vessel proceeded at 0045 from a position off Cape D'Alprech on a southerly course, speed about 16 knots. (V.A. Dover 0118A/14.)

Navigational.

No.33 Buoy. Number 33 buoy, light extinguished, cage missing. (A.C.O.S. 1528/14) (Hydrog.1843A/14.)

No.54 D. Buoy. Number 54 D. lighted buoy extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 2023A/14.)
F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 2023A/14. Request Q.Z.H. and that buoy may be relit as soon as possible. (C. in C. Nore 2057A/14 to Admty.)

/85 ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

No.54 D. Buoy. contd.

85 Q.Z.H. Yarmouth Area. Number 54 D Light-buoy reported extinguished. (Hydrog. 2318A/14.)

Casualties and Defects.

MACBETH.

At 0400 G.M.T./14 MACBETH will signal her position to Admiralty on 500 kcs. You are to D/F this signal, retransmit it to Admiralty and, having done so, report to Admiralty giving your own P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 0034A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)
Am in D/F contact with HPWN unknown ship. Please verify. MACBETH not heard 0400.
(PIMPERNEL 1005A/14 to Admty.)
Endeavour to establish communication with MACBETH direction 500 kcs. and arrange transmissions of D/F purposes as required by you. MACBETH's call sign not known. Use her name P/L as call.
(C. in C. W.A. 1116A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)
HBWN is believed to be MACBETH. Proceed to position.
(C. in C. W.A. 1335A/14 to PIMPERNEL.)

Convoy O.N.44. RESTIGOUCHE.

RESTIGOUCHE severely damaged by weather. Dismasted, galley fire out, tiller and stewards flat flooded, considerable minor damage and leaks. Sub.Lt. S.G. Moore R.C.N. suffering fractured fibula. Other minor casualties. Still hove to in 057° 22' N. 026° 29' W. No sight for 3 days. Flood under control. Propose to proceed direct to (? Clyde) for repairs when weather moderates.
(RESTIGOUCHE 1205Z/14 to C.C.N.F.)
My 1205Z/14. Forward magazine and shell room also flooded. Am proceeding to Clyde for repairs.
(RESTIGOUCHE 1614Z/14.)

FRISKY.

FRISKY E.T.A. Greenock 1330/15. Conditions in crews quarters very bad owing to persistent leak on mess deck thought to be partly due to tank tops. Request survey on arrival.
(M.O.R.T. Campbeltown 1750A/14 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.44.

O.N.44 and Escort scattered by violent storm. Suggest convoy be dispersed. No sight for 3 days. (RESTIGOUCHE 1015Z/14 to U.S. Chief of Naval Ops.)

/"Toward"..

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.44 contd. "Toward" can't take it and is running home. My P.C.S. 58° 40' N. 20° W. (? 270°) 5. (ARABIS 1015Z/14 to C. in C. W.A.) Hove to since 1900Z/13. My position approx 058°N. 025° W. Convoy scattered. (MONTBRETIA 1035Z/14.)

S.D.1. (? S.D.18) Cancel my 1809A/13. Admiralty 2356A/13 and C. in C. W.A. 2311A/13. Request you sail ST. MARYS as requisite for S.D.1 and instruct her to proceed to port Z.A. on return. (D.D.O.D. M. 1020A/14 to R.A.M.)

Q.P.3. Intend sailing Q.P.3 including UNZE, ANDRE MARTI, and 2 other M/Vs at 1130/15 to join RUSTY at 1700/15. Speed of advance 8 knots. Request air escort to rendezvous. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1200/14 to A.C.O.S.)

P.W.80. Convoy P.W.80. Has been postponed on account of weather. (C. in C. Plymouth 1248/14.)

Q.P.4. P.Q.6. A.M. 2258A/13 which is being passed to C.S.18 and Admiral Miles. Report forthwith position regarding sailing of Q.P.4 and whether co-operation of Russian Destroyers can be obtained to escort this Convoy clear of danger from German destroyers. 2. It is considered that Q.P.4 requires destroyer escort and you should postpone its departure until you have made arrangements for its escort. (A.C.N.S. H. 1421A/14 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.) After long negotiations with Russians the following arrangements have been agreed subject to prevailing ice and weather conditions. Q.P.4 consisting of 8 to 10 ships clears Dvina Bar p.m.20th December and led by icebreaker STALIN arrives off Cape Terski Orlov p.m.21st to R/V with escort. P.Q.6 should arrive off Cape Terski Orlov at 1000C/19 where it will be met by STALIN and led to Molotovsk. DEKABRIST is to proceed to Murmansk to discharge. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 2230C/14.)

F.N.80. My 1325/13. LIDDESDALE delayed and will leave Rosyth 1030 tomorrow fifteenth to meet F.N.80 in Barrow Deep a.m.16th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1545/14.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

AUDACITY. Message from AUDACITY 1217/10/11 and your 1943A/25/11 to C. in C. W.A. As AUDACITY is returning to U.K., Airacrews are not now required to be flown to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1054A/14 to Admty.)

P.35.
UNA. (1) Report P.C. and S. of A. on crossing 043° 00'.
(2) P.35 onward route
L. 043° 00' 012° 40'
M. 036° 30' 010° 00'
thence to R/V with escort 350° Spartel 5 miles.
Dive by day 17th and 18th.
(3) UNA onward route
N. 043° 00' 010° 30'
O. 040° 00' (? 011°) 00'
P. 037° 30' 011° 00'
Q. 036° 30' 010° 00'
thence R/V escort 350° Spartel 5 miles. Dive by day 17th. (F.O.C.N.A. 1106A/14 to P.35, UNA) Modified by 2306A/15, q.v.

NESTOR.
GURKHA.
FOXHOUND. My P.C. and S.(?38°) 50' N. 016° 30' W. 111° 18 knots E.T.A. 2100/15. GURKHA, FOXHOUND and (Corrupt Group) in company. Request berth with crane for NESTOR, GURKHA and FOXHOUND to facilitate embarkation of stores. All ships have mail and passengers. GURKHA and NESTOR required (?dockyard) welding assistance. (NESTOR 1200Z/14 to F.O.C.N.A. A.S. Gib.)

Ships being sailed to avoid air raid. Local intelligence suggests possibility of an air raid consequently am sailing H.G. 76 at 1700 today and 3 oilers and EMPIRE BARRACUDA at 2000. (F.O.C.N.A. 1204A/14 to Admty.)

FJORD.
SARASTONE. Your 1348A/12. No confirmation is available, nevertheless two of the 4 British survivors, Albert Cocks H.M. W.T. Operator and Richard Haws Ord. Seaman, are certain ship was less than three miles from shore. Remainder of FJORD's survivors are in Spain and not available.
(2) SARASTONE settled on an even keel with her masts and funnel showing above water and one foot of the top of her wheelhouse was also showing above water at low tide on 30/10. Positio of masts and funnel was fixed by LOCH OSKAIG at 0830/1/11. This was 37° 05' 10" N. 06° 48' 30" W. There can be no question of SARASTONE having steamed towards the shore after being hit as her engines stopped immediately and ship sank within 15 minutes. On October 31st Cadiz W/T made navigational warning to all ships that submerged vessel was in approx. 37 05' N. 06 48 5" W. Subsequently Cadiz's 2355/15/11 amended this position to 37 04' N. 06 48' W. reporting that a buoy had been placed in this position. (F.O.C.N.A. 1238A/13)

/Algiers.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

Algiers intelligence.	My U.S.colleague has received following from his Consul Algiers dated 13/12. It is reported steamer ATHOS Second has arrived from Marseilles with 2500 Indo China troops part of Syrian army on board and escorted by 2 destroyers X.93 and X.51. Please inform Foreign Office. (C.G. (? Tangier) 1315/14 to Adty.) Note:- Originator not given.
S.S. SERAFIN TOPIC.	A.I. SERAFIN TOPIC sailed from Oran noon today. (GREENLEAVES 1345/14 to S.O. (I) Gib.)
CLYDE.	Arrival CLYDE. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/14).
ROCKROSE. JASMINE.	(Corrupt Group) delayed by strong west gales. P.C. and S. at 1200N/14: 047° 03' N. 021° 43' W. 203° 9. Oil fuel required at Ponta Delgada JASMINE 100 tons ROCKROSE 135 tons. E.T.A. a.m./17th. (ROCKROSE 1445N/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)
LEGION, ISAAC SWEERS.	Admiralty 1931A/28/11. Quantity of 4 inch ammunition after adjustment. (S.O. Force H, 1549A/14 to Admty.)
Patrol.	Shift patrol to eastwards of line 000° Almina Pt. from 1630/14th until 2200/14th then resume normal patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1533A/14 ST. NECTAN, HAARLEM, LORD HOTHAM, ARTIC RANGER. Repeated ZULU, FORTUNE.)
French shipping.	Gibraltar 1035 LA TOULONNAISE, S.S. IMERETHIE II laden ILE DEBREAT deck cargo Launches CHATEAU PAVIE laden deck cargo horse carriages Trawler KARSMAN full westbound. 1200 armed trawler VICTORIA, S.S. PARAME, KITA both full eastbound. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 1823A/14).
VANQUISHER. WITCH. VOLUNTEER.	Anticipated that VANQUISHER, WITCH and VOLUNTEER will arrive at Ponta Delgada p.m./15. They will require to leave a.m./16 to make R/V. You should adjust your fuelling accordingly. If necessary to leave with time in hand proceed excercising utmost economy of fuel. Possible that your R/V may be delayed. (A.C.N.S. (H) 2045A/14 to HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, LIGHTNING.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Vichy A/C shot down.	Freetown fighters shot down a Vichy R/C aircraft PM./13. A second aircraft was present, was chased nearly to coast but escaped. (C. in C. S.A. 0021Z/14 to Admty.)
W.S.14.	Service personnel requiring onward conveyance. Water and fuel required by ships at Freetown. (D.S.T., 0129A/14, 0130A/14 to C. in C. S.A. etc.) See Lion Copy.
W.S.12Z. Escorts.	ASTER and MARGUERITE arrived Simonstown P.M./13th and sailed A.M./14th to R/V with ROYAL SOVEREIGN and Convoy W.S. 12Z as reliefs for VERBENA and HOLLYHOCK. 2. SOUTHWOOD and DULVERTON have been detached from W.S. 12Z. and arrived Simonstown 14th. They will sail 15/12 for Durban direct. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 0958Z/14 to Admty. etc.)
S.S. MONTANAN. (Am-Hawaiian)	Overdue shipping MONTANAN due Cape Port about 8/12 not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1000B/14). Cancelled 0938B/15.
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE (French. Armed Trawler)	Lobito 14/12. (Matadi 1011/14).
O.S.12.	Arrivals. (C. in C. S.A. 1040Z/14) See U-Boat Campaign.
ATHENE.	A.M. 0150/18. ATHENE is to proceed to Takoradi loaded with Hurricanes. C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to arrange sailing, route and escort as soon as practicable. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1047A/14 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A. (R) Force H, C. in C. Med. V.A.M.)
Leakage of ships movements.	Movements of U.S. Merchant ships are being freely ordered from New York by Barber line to their agents in West Africa in plain language by Commercial Cable and W/T. For example EAST INDIAN and SANTA PAULA now at Bathurst have just received instructions in P/L to proceed to Roberts Portland Freetown respectively. Request this be taken up with U.S. authorities urgently. (C. in C. S.A. 1201Z/14 to B.A.D. Washington)

/KULMERLAND....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

KULMERLAND. (? Following graded) B.2. KULMERLAND disguised as ship of Luckenback Line with American flag painted on side probably in 030° S. 090° E. in mid November. May now be homeward bound. (C. in C. S.A. 1213Z/13 to S.A. Stn. Sqn.)

Mediterranean.

Following has been read. Addressed Alexandria C.C.O. from call sign 81MT (signification unknown). Tow line parted twice. Ship being down by head cannot steer, request assistance of tug. SOUTHERN ISLE and SOUTHERN SEAS standing by. (Malta C.C.O., 0045B/14).

Libya. Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 0048/14 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

SURCOUF. Ref. 1502Z/29/11 from C.C.S.O. Aden regarding S.S. SURCOUF. In accordance with Admty. 2217B/28/6 and 2103A/1/11 please send information urgently regarding categories and numbers of officers and seamen willing to serve. (D. of S.T. 0057A/14 to N.O.I.C. Aden, rep. C. in C. Med.)

MUROTO. FOUADIEH. collision. Ref. K.R. and A.I. art. 1167, MUROTO collided with British S.S. FOUADIEH in Port Said buoyed channel on 11/12 1941. Slight damage to FOUADIEH. Very slight damage to MUROTO. Both ships seaworthy. Owners of FOUADIEH, Khedivial Mail Line, Egypt. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 0851B/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy Hospital Ship. Hospital Ship 34° 42' N. 22° 38' E., course 120° 12 knots. (A/C E., 0856/14 to 201 Group). P.C. and S. of enemy hospital ship 35° 00' N. 22° 56' E. course 200° speed 6 knots. (A/C X 0859/14 to 201 Group).

/2 destroyers.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

2 destroyers. 37 59 15 35 0937 2 Destroyers + (-at) 180 10. (A/C "O" 1001B/14)
+ could read - hit.

Enemy A/C. Two enemy aircraft shadowing 33.02 N., 26.17 E. Reference position taken at 0800, 270° 18 knots. (F.O. 15th C.S., 1010/14 to Alexandria).

REGENT. From 049° N. 006° W. proceed through
(a) 050° N. 002° W.
(b) 050° 14' N. 000° 41' W.
to R/V in 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0845/17th keep west of position (B) until 0500/17th. (Capt. (S) 5 1030A/14 to REGENT).

2 destroyers 1 A/C. 37° 55' 15° 35' 0937 Two Destroyers One Aircraft 180° 10 Knots. (Med. A/C 7JKC 1050/14).

TALISMAN. Remain north of 033° 50' until 0001B/15th. ABDIEL proceeding from 033° 00' 030° 00' to 033° 50' 024° 40' at high speed should cross your southward track about 2200B/14th. (Capt. (S) 1, 1051B/14 to TALISMAN, Rep. ABDIEL, C. in C. Med., S.10.)
Remain North of 033° 50' until 0001B/15. ABDIEL proceeding from 033° 00' 030° 00' to 033° 50' 024° 40' at high speed should cross your Southward track about 2200B/14. T.O.O. 1051B/14th. (Capt. (S) 1 1055B/14 to TALISMAN, Rep. ABDIEL, C. in C. Med., S.10).
Cancel my 1051B/14. Proceed through 034° 04' 026° 24' 032° 58' 28° 12' thence to arrive R/V. Report E.T.A. Alexandria. (Capt. (S) 1, 1827B/14 to TALISMAN, Rep. No. 201 Naval Co-operation Group, CARLISLE, C. in C. Med. HERO, N.O.I.C. Alexandria (? BRECONSHIRE) WARSPITE)

PARRAMATTA. Board of enquiry into loss of PARRAMATTA will not be held. (C. in C. Med. 1102B/14).

Malta Force. In view of M.K. 811 do you wish Malta force to sail? (V.A. Malta 1128B/14 to C. in C. Med.)
Your 1128/14th, no. (C. in C. Med. 1423B/14 to N.O.I.C. Malta.)

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Italian battleship torpedoed by URGE.

At 0858B/14th, obtained 2 hits on rear ship of the 2 Italian Battleship CONTE DI CAVOUR screened by destroyers enemy P.C. and S. 037° 53' 015° 29' 200° 17. At 0945 1 battleship 1 destroyer course 090°. Nothing seen of second battleship but depth charge heard going north up Straits of Messina. (URGE 1131B/14 to Capt. (S) 10).
Well done indeed. After recall and when safe to do so UPRIGHT should send amplifying report stating particularly whether both ships were sunk by S/M. (Capt. S.10 2319B/14 to URGE, UPRIGHT, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1, N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Operation M.E.9. Force Q.

Operation M.E.9. postponed. Force Q return to Alexandria with all convenient despatch. ABDIEL return to Haifa. (C. in C. Med. 1148B/14 to ABDIEL, C.S.15, Rep. Group 201, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) one, R.A. Alexandria, N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports).

Destroyer in Navarin.

R/C shows one M/V one large destroyer in Navarin 13th. (Capt. (S) 1, 1203B/14 to S/M's on patrol).

A/S sweep.

Detach 4 destroyers to carry A/S Sweep in Arabs Gulf to arrive Alexandria by 0800/15. U-boat reported in 031° 20' N. 028° 00' E. at 0425/14 and 031° 00' N. 029° 00' E. at 2300/13. (C. in C. Med. 1206B/14 to C.S.15. Rep. S.O. Force (I), N.O.I.C. Alexandria, Captain (S) 1st S/M.F., 201 Group.)

Passage of M/V, westward.

It is for consideration whether this is not a favourable moment to sail merchant vessel westward. (C. in C. Med. 1208B/14 to V.A. Malta (R) Admty. F.O.C.N.A. S.O. Force H).
Your 1208B/14. Group 1 destroyers were shadowed during daylight day previous to arrival. Consider this taken in conjunction with presence of U-boat in Western area makes present moment not favourable. Admty. 1357A/13 and F.O.C.N.A's 2246A/13 refer. (V.A. Malta, 1857B/14 to C. in C. Med, (R) Admty. S.O. Force H, F.O.C.N.A.)

/2.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

2 destroyers
2 A/C's.

At 0937B 2 destroyers 2 aircraft 037° 55' N. 015° 35' E., course 180° or 000° speed 10 knots. Check by pilot on landing. (Malta 1320/14 to C. in C. Med.)

PERSEUS.
TRUANT.

PERSEUS leave patrol forthwith. Proceed through 037° 54' 019° 50' 035° 58' 019° 56' 033° 48' 026°-26' thence direct. Pass through 2nd position about 1800B/15th and arrive Alexandria sanctuary. 0600B/19. TRUANT remain east of 020° until 0001B/15th. Subsequently patrol in area P and P One. (Capt. (S) 1 1521B/14 to PERSEUS, TRUANT, Rep. C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10, S/Ms on patrol., V.A. Malta, C.S.7., 201 Group, C.S.15, R.A. Alexandria, BRECONSHIRE).
Following is repetition of my 1521B/14th, begins PERSEUS leave for patrol forthwith. Proceed through 037° 54' 019° 50' 035° 58' 019° 56' 033° 48' 026° 26' thence direct. Proceed 2nd position about 1800B/15 and arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0600B/19. TRUANT remaining east of 020° until 0001B/15 subsequently patrolling in area P and P 36. Ends. (Capt. (S) 1, 1523B/14 to addressees as 1521B).

2 battleships
9 destroyers.

2 battleships 9 destroyers position 038° 22' N. 017° 40' E. course 080° speed 10 to 15 knots at 1415 probable.destination Taranto. (V.A. Malta 1535B/14 to C. in C. Med. Med. Fleet., S/Ms on Patrol.)

M.T. Ships.

My 2340/26/11. From U.K., M.T. and maintenance ships, (C) 8 of the 14 will not arrive as destination has been changed. P.S.T.O. Egypt pass to Barker. (D.S.T. 1624A/14 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).

Air report.

1445 hours 2 D/Rs. and 2 M/V's 3000 tons leaving Harbour possibly those attacked earlier see my 1.282 Navarin Harbour 1400 hours 1 D/R 1 M/V about 1000 tons is down by stern. Night 13/14 6 alerts between 1640 and 0537 hours single enemy aircraft bombs land sea no damage IC Wellingtons laid mines Benghazi Harbour 4 others caused diversion dropping 3 500 lbs. GP 4 250 lbs SAP bombs each on shipping and Wharves results not seen 2 mines laid inside Harbour 2 in Harbour entrance 2 just North outer mole moderate inaccurate A/A. End of Part 1 Part 2 follows. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1640/14).

/14th.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air report - Contd.	14th R/C east Sicilian Coast 0735 hours 2 D/R's escorted by aircraft 10 miles south Messina steaming north or south speed unknown special searches East Ionian Sea and Greek Coast sighted no shipping Messina Taranto Recco sighted 1205 hours 2 battleships 9 S.D/R's escorted by 6 aircraft 139° Cape,Rizzuto 42 miles course 080° 11 knots. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1649/14).
ALBERTO DI GIUSSANO ALBERICO DA BARBIANO.	Probable names of Italian cruisers sunk night of 12-13/12. See America and West Indies 1801/14.
Libya.	Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E. 1825/14). See Lion Copy.
Air Strength.	Comments on C.O.S. 207. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1903/14 to Air Min). See Lion Copy.
PORPOISE. TORBAY.	PORPOISE leave patrol P.M./15 proceeding through 036° 46' 021° 24' 036° 06' 0218°24' 035° 42' 023° 26' thence within 20 miles north coast of Crete and through 035° 26' 026° 24' 032° 20' 029° 02' to Alexandria searched channel. Pass through third position early P.M./16th and arriving sanctuary 0600B/19th. TORBAY is to remain east of 021° 30' from noon till 2159B on 15th and then take over patrol in areas Q and Q 1. (Capt. S.1. 1931B/14 to PORPOISE, TORBAY.)
COETLOGON. (French)	Arrival 13/12. (Barcelona, 2126/14 to D. of S.T.)
SOKOL, P.31.	Proceed with despatch to establish patrol line 2 - 039° 11' - 017° 46' - 060° - 13 - 150 - 20 - P.31 in position L - 039° 11' 017° 46' SOKOL in position M. UPRIGHT in position A. of amended patrol line 3 - 039° 27' 017° 24' - 060° - 13 - 150 - 20 (? repeated) 20. UTMOST and UNBEATEN in positions B and C respectively. Submarines encountered at night are not to be attacked until further orders. (Capt. S.10, 2145B/14 to SOKOL, P.31, R. S/M's on Patrol C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1.)

/UPHOLDER.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.-Contd.

UPHOLDER.
URGE.
P.34.

UPHOLDER proceed to area G, 037° 30' 016° 00' 000° 30 50 concentrate in 037° 47' 016° 05'. URGE operate in area F, 037° 30' 015° 09° 000° 40 - 30 concentrate on 037° 51' 015° 37' P.34 proceed to establish anti U-boat patrol off Augusta 16/12 leave as necessary to pass 037° 02' 015° 37' and 035° 51', 015° 15' to arrive at Malta before noon/17. (Capt. S.10, 2153B/14 to P.34, UPHOLDER, URGE (R) Submarines on Patrol, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Appear enemy withdrawing to Taranto and southward movement postponed. Two merchant ships may pass Messina thence probably Taranto rather than Greek coast. (Capt. S.10, 2227B/14 to 10 S/M Flot.)
Your 1535B/14. Force believed to have passed Northwards through 039° 50' 017° 25' at 2030B/14. (UTMOST, 2227B/14 to ? N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Blockade of Jibuti.

Your 1347B/9 and C. in C. E.I. 2242Z/12.
Submarine threat apart from existing threat from Vichy submarines, which should cease when Jibuti surrenders, is considered at present to be small and raider threat negligible.
2. Blockade of Jibuti should therefore for the present take precedence over A/S defences of Aden. A fuller appreciation of this will shortly be signalled.
3. Request you will sail SUTLEJ, JUMNA, BATHURST and LISMORE to Ceylon forthwith to join East Indies Station. (A. C.N.S. (F) 2330A/14 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.R.S., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

MOST SECRET

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Burma Command.

1. C. in C. India (? definitely) assuming command Burma including Air Forces and 204 Mission at 0630 hours G.M.T. 15/12.
2. Easfar pass C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
3. Troopers pass S. of S. India.
4. Burmarmy pass 204 mission and Governor.
(C. in C. India, 0100/14 to C. in C. Far East., etc.)

Ceylon.

S.D.5. Reinforcements Ceylon. Your 57070 (M.O.12) of 10/12. All concerned have agreed despatch Force Lancelot Scheme being operated forthwith. D 1 Sunday 21/12.
(C. in C. India, 0120/14 to W.O.)

Burma.

Situation Report.
(G.O.C. Burma, 0225/14 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

QUEEN MARY.

My 1236/10 can reply now be given please re QUEEN MARY? It would appear desirable she should leave these waters as soon as possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0650Z/14 to Admty.)
Your 1236/10 and 0650/14. 1. Subject to U.S.A. agreement which has been sought intend QUEEN MARY should dock in U.S.A. proceeding via Capetown and Trinidad. 2. Pending this approval request you will hold ship at Trincomalee. 3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to remark on security aspect of fuelling QUEEN MARY at Capetown. D. of S.T. will make fuelling and watering arrangements.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1809A/14 to C. in C. E.I. (R) C. in C. S.A., C in C. A.W.I., F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Admty. 1855/18/11 para. 10. In view of Far Eastern situation is CAPETOWN CASTLE still to proceed to Singapore en route for New Zealand, communicating if numbers for onward despatch to Malaya are as stated in your above-quoted signal, or should troops be disembarked at Bombay and despatched to Malaya when opportunities offer, and ship proceed to New Zealand from Bombay?
(S.S.T.O. Bombay, 0741Z/14 to Admty., C. in C. East Indies, (R) R.A. Malaya, S.O. Group 3.)

/Transports ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Transports, Diversion. Request you will arrange for diversion to Bombay for orders of following ships now en route from U.K. to Middle East: STANMORE, HARPASA, BRITTANY, FILLEIGH, BARON CAWDOR, TALTHYBIUS, LOCH RANZA, LULWORTH HILL, CLAN ALPINE, HALIZONES and ANGLO INDIAN.
2. Further instructions will be sent by D. of S.T. to P.S.T.O. India in due course.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1942A/14 to C. in C. E.I.)

Burma. Situation Report.
(G.O.C. Burma, 2105/14 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

China.

Enemy Ships sunk by Dutch S/M. Dutch S/M K.12 reports sinking 1 merchant ship on 12th and 1 oiler on 13th off Kota Bharu.
(C. in C. E.F., 0031Z/14 to Admty.)

Japanese Operations. Report for Chiefs of Staff on enemy operations 8/12 to 10/12.
(C. in C. Far East, 0154/14 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

Manila appreciation from B.A.D. Washington. Your 2009/13. Yes. Signal will be made if arrangements cease.
(C.O.I.S. Singapore, 0221Z/14 to Admty.)

Control of U.S. Forces. B.A.D. Washington's message 2125P/12 indicates that strategic control of U.S. naval forces in Far Eastern area is being exercised from Washington and this probably explains my being unable to obtain any communication from Admiral Hart. 4 U.S. destroyers have left here today to join Admiral Glasfurd by order of Washington.
(C. in C. E.F., 0451Z/14 to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)
Reply from B.A.D., see America and West Indies, 2035R/14.

/S.S. ULYSSES ...

MOST SECRET

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

S.S. ULYSSES Sunk.	S.S. ULYSSES bombed 9/12 search by two destroyers negative. Now presumed lost. (R.A. Malaya, 0515Z/14.)
Enemy Intelligence.	D/F bearing indicates possibility of enemy unit in vicinity of 016° S. 097° 30' E. at 1939Z/13. (Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0529Z/14 to C. in C. E.I., A.C.N.B., C.Z.M., Admty.) (i) My 0521/13. Same source reports huge fleet in Camranh Bay today Sunday. U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet unable to provide R/C. (ii) Aircraft sighting report 0607Z/14, 6 cruisers, no transports in the vicinity. Cruisers circled (? but) later sighted steering 210° in approx. position 007° 30' N. 106° 20' E. (iii) 12/12 submarines reported south of Sumba Island, west of Timor. Graded C.3. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 1438Z/14 to Admty.)
Minelaying.	Admty. 1533/13. KUNG WO fitted for minelaying but with no mines or trained mining personnel on board is at present at Nancowry and can be made available. If you consider her suitable please inform me where she should proceed. (C. in C. E.F., 0531Z/14 to C. in C. E.I.)
Malaya.	Military Situation Report. (Advance G.Q.M.C., 0559/14 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.
Hong Kong Report.	A difficult day. Shelling increased in intensity and accuracy. Two 4.7-inch guns at Belchers badly hit as are one 9.2 gun and one 3-inch A.A. Mount Davis. Two 6-inch guns Pakshawan hit but fit for auto-sight and gun control. Both searchlight Pakshawan hit and temporarily out of action. Some casualties and Chinese gunners deserting. Anticipate abandonment of this battery may be necessary owing to proximity of enemy's observation from Devils Peak. Japanese appear to be collecting ferry launches and Junks on Kowloon side. Some activity Lamma Island and vicinity. Difficulty with civilian populace still grave. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0800/14 to C. in C. Far East, W.O.)

/Defence ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - Contd.

Defence of Burma.

Your 20788/9, 13/12, T.O.O. 2335/13. I agree. Notify me time and date of change. Further signal follows.
(C. in C. Far East, 1418/14 to C. in C. India, (R) W.O., G.O.C. Burma.)

Eastern Fleet, Base for C. in C.

Your 0845Z/13. Admiralty agree that Singapore may not be able to remain the strategic centre, both because of its communications failing and the battle areashifting to the Indian Ocean and also possibly to Australasia.
2. It is agreed that when you consider it necessary you should proceed to Colombo flying your flag on shore there until it is possible to make arrangements for you to take up your next Command. The disposition of available surface vessels would be at your discretion.
(Naval Secretary, 1433A/14 to C. in C. E.F.)

Fighter cover for PRINCE OF WALES.

Your 57754 (M.O.10) C.O.S. F.E. 59, 13/12.
Para. 1. C. in C. Eastern Fleet did not make any such request while at sea.
Para. 2. Singapore was not kept informed of position of warships after change of plan. It was however, inferred during forenoon of 10th that plan had been changed owing to receipt of signal giving an anticipated position on 11th which indicated force could not have proceeded as far north as Singora.
Para. 3. First knowledge of position was when REPULSE reported being bombed, whereupon fighters were immediately despatched.
(C. in C. Far East, 1939/14 to W.O.)

Chinese Offensive.

C. in C. Far East 2005/14 to W.O.
See Lion Copy.

Borneo Oilfields.

C.N.O. states that U.S. C. in C. Asiatic Fleet has advised Singapore and Batavia to destroy immediately the Borneo Oilfields except Balikpapan and to destroy that one soon.
(Spenavo, 2236/14 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

O.N.46. — Task unit 4.1.11, designated escort O.N.46 OTTAWA, PRIMROSE, TRAIL, POLYANTHUS, ARVIDA, SHERBROOKE. Also ROSTERN, if repairs can be completed in time.
(Opnav, 0305Z/14 to Admty.)

O.N.41. — My 0150/14. O.N.41 escort reports speed five.
(Opnav, 0710Z/14 to Admty.)

Enemy Supply Ship, St. Paul's Rocks area. — Your 2011Z/12. Patrol in H 52 B is being maintained for the present in case situation alters. My 1232Q/13* refers.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 0942Q/14 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Admty.) * Possibility of enemy supply ship moving towards St. Paul's Rocks area.

Shipping Routes. — Your 1915A/13 not to S.O.(I) Jamaica appears to place responsibility for routeing of trans-Pacific shipping from Panama on N.S.H.Q., and this is not understood. Routeing instructions for these ships were issued in my 0043Q/11 after consultation with New Zealand Navy Board. I concur in routeing instructions for remainder of trans-Pacific shipping given by N.S.H.Q. to N.C.S.O's under his orders in his 1507Z/11.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1032Q/14 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., N.Z.N.B., S.O.I. Jamaica.) Reply Admty. 2101A/16.

A/C Report 13/12. — S.O.(I) Jamaica's 1128/13. Aircraft were friendly.
(B.A.D., 1035R/14 to Admty., etc.)

Shipping. — Your 1201/11. British and Allied North Pacific Coastal Traffic should proceed.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1052Q/14 to C.S.A. Panama, (R) Admty., S.O.(I) Jamaica, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, B.A.D., C.S.A. Colon.)

ASTRAL. — Your 2303Z/11, U.S. Tanker ASTRAL. Lisbon reports she has not arrived.
Admiralty has no further information.
(D.T.D., 1301A/14 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

/Situation ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Situation Report.

Washops 4. (i) Philippine Is. (?Statement) by U.S. Staff in Philippine Is. received 1600/13 as follows. Landings in Legaspi Vigan Aparri areas expected to be reinforced though physical characteristics of Bicol Peninsula Ilocos Coast and Cayagan Valley are not suitable for employment strong offensive force. Object of enemy action thought to be establishment of bridgeheads for creation of air bases from which aircraft from Formosa can operate. This having been accomplished a major landing effort can be expected. Estimated period before major landing is 15 days. In meantime daily air attacks can be expected with object of wearing down our rapidly diminishing Air Force and destruction of air fields and supplies. Only method for immediate relief is early air counter attack on Formosa. 1st priority reinforcement should be fighter aircraft from carriers, 2nd fast high flying bombers, 3rd troops. Bombs of which only limited supply here should be included in 1st priority. At present enemy can deliver air attacks at will.
2. Hawaii. At least 2 small 50 foot submarines took part in last Sunday's attack. 1 captured 1 destroyed. These reached harbour in spite of A/S nets being closed.
3. Wake. Message received 0445/13 indicates this island still in U.S. hands and had further bombing attack at midnight.
4. Gilbert Island. A message received 0241/14 reports landing at Tarawa and Makin. 1 cruiser and 2 destroyers off Tarawa.
5. Phoenix and Christmas Islands. (a) Canton (Pheonix Islands) highly important for proposed air ferry has been reinforced from Honolulu by two 75 mm. and 12 machine guns. Only small boats can enter the harbour.
(b) Christams Island is being reinforced with two 155mm. guns, one battery three inch A/A and 12 machine guns now en route from Honolulu.
6. Fiji Islands. S.S. LUDINGTON is carrying two 75 mm. and 12 machine guns to Suva where completion of Mandifield is being rushed.
7. Alaska. West Arctic Coast frozen, a landing here considered possible though difficult. Bristol Bay landing conditions unfavourable. Gulf of Alaska favourable.
Admty pass to W.O. and A.M.
(J.S.M., Washington, 1411R/14 to Admty etc).

/PRINCE DAVID...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

PRINCE DAVID.	Leave Bermuda A.M./15 and proceed at best possible speed to Esquimalt via Panama Canal. Route to Colon via Windward Passage. Route from Balboa to Esquimalt Coastwise. (2) You should complete with fuel at Balboa, and report to all addressees your E.T.A. Esquimalt before leaving Balboa. (3) Report your E.T.A. Colon to me on leaving Bermuda. (4) C.S.A. Colon and Panama will be informed. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1552Q/14 to PRINCE DAVID.)
RANPURA.	Your 1400/12. RANPURA is expected to arrive Baltimore 20/1. (D.O.D. (F), 1626A/14 to B.A.R.M.)
DEVONSHIRE.	My 2342/3, DEVONSHIRE now reports essential to retube A to E rows and proportion of F to N rows in No. A.1. boiler. 2. It may also be necessary to retube A to D rows of remaining seven boilers. 3. Request immediate report whether tubes are available in America. (D. of D., 1740/14 to B.A.R.M.)
O.N.43, O.N.44.	1015Z/14 from RESTIGOUCHE to U.S.C.N.O. has been intercepted. Recommend both convoys disperse all ships being directed through new advance positions 145° 75 miles from advance positions ordered. Admiralty would instruct stragglers to conform. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1745Z/14 to Opnav).
Italian Cruisers Sunk 13/12.	Meter. U.S. Consul Tunis reports 13/12 (B.2) On the night 12/13 Dec. Italian Cruisers ALBERTO DI GIUSSANO and ALBERICO DA BARBIANO were sunk and one destroyer disabled in action off Cape Bon. The beach is littered with survivors and dead, all possible aid is being rushed from Tunis. (B.2). (B.A.D., 1801R/14 to Admty (R) V.A.M. C. in C. Med).
ATHOS II.	Meter. Algiers 13/12 (B.2)ATHOS 2nd has arrived from Marseilles with escort of destroyers. She carried 2500 Indo Chinese troops part of the Syrian army. (B.A.D., 1803R/14 to Admiralty., (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, S.O.(I) Freetown).

/QUEEN...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, AQUITANIA.

Pending further decisions on future U.S. convoys request you will retain QUEEN ELIZABETH and AQUITANIA in Australia.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1814A/14 to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.I., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.F.)

Movement of Shipping.

My 2007/13. Some ships are reporting leaving Panama. All ships are still being held at Cristobal. Unable to ascertain reason from U.S. Authorities. (N.C.S.O. Colon, 1833/14 to S.O.(I) Kingston).

Shipping.

Request your 0036Z/13 may be passed to me, as well as all proposals which affect routeing of shipping on A.W.I. Station.
(C. in C. A.W.I., 1852Q/14 to N.S.H.Q.)

Control of U.S. Forces.

C. in C. E.F.'s 0451/14. Part. 1.
U.S. C.N.O. considers annexe II of ABC1 in force providing for collaboration by local military commanders in Far East area in planning and execution of operations. Strategical direction of U.S. Forces remains with U.S.C.N.O. and of British Forces with Admiralty and Dominion Govts. and of Dutch Forces with N.E.I. Authorities.
(ii) Thus direction of retirement if necessary of U.S. Asiatic Fleet is considered proper within provinces of U.S. C.N.O. who consults C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet.
(iii) Orders to destroyers reported in C. in C. E.F's. 0451/14 were given by C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet but passed via Washington.
(iv) Part 2 of this message gives present intention of U.S.C.N.O.
Part 2.
(i) On 13th C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet appreciated enemy control of air over Philippine Is. will become evident shortly threatening fleet base facilities. In long war prevention enemy fuel replenishments strongest strategic weapon. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet intends to operate submarines from Manila as long as possible with primary objective important enemy ships. All other available ships being organized under Admiral Glassford to operate at present on general lines Sourabaya-Darwin.
(ii) U.S.C.N.O. appreciates Far East developments not unexpected, except for rapidity owing to vigour of Japanese attack. He considers Naval position in Indian Ocean undermined by sacrifice of British heavy ships. Fall of Luzon and Singapore would shift pressure to Netherlands East Indies. Essential to prolong Dutch resistance and close Eastern Malaya (?South-East)

/passages to...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Control of U.S. Forces. Contd.

passages to raiders to give time to build up N.W. Australia defences. Retirement in N.W. Australia will also make possible ultimate junction with Pacific Fleet which would be more useful than retirement to Ceylon.
(iii) On 14th. U.S.C.N.O. approved operation of submarines from Manila with objectives as in para (i) (?returning) and supporting Army defence of Luzon, but advised using more southerly bases before retirement cut off.
(iv) U.S. C.N.O. directed C. in C. U.S.Asiatic Fleet to consult General Commanding Philippine Is. concerning orders for convoy with Army and Air material originally destined for Manila now diverted to Brisbane. U.S.C.N.O. recommended artillery and aircraft in convoy be used for defence of Darwin and vicinity.
(v) U.S. C.N.O. intends U.S. Asiatic Fleet surface forces shall continue to operate in area of Sourabaya-Thursday Island. He assumes British will close Malacca Straits to enemy and expects Dutch to guard Sunda Strait with any (?assistance) British can afford.
(vi) U.S. submarine tender aircraft tender and M/S and small craft will probably be ordered to Darwin. (B.A.D., 2035R/14 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O. Melbourne, N.O. Wellington).

Shipping.

My 1507Z/11. Instructions in para 2 have been amended so that ships will proceed to Wellington for further instructions passing South of Chatham Islands.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2355Z/14 to B.A.D. (R) Admty etc).

Australia & New Zealand.

Situation.

1. Gilbert Area. Tarawa Island reports all clear 13/12. Japanese left P.M.10/12 after destroying launches canoes and some buildings. 2 Natives killed but no European casualties. Now reports only two ships took part. Description about 10,000 tons two funnel possibly A.M.Cs. Tarawa Island radio station smashed but hidden sets now functioning.
2. Makin Island not heard since 11/12.
3. Gunfire and flashes reported East of Abaiang Gilbert Island at 1700Z/13. Grade B.2.
Admty pass to Opnav. (N.Z.N.B* C. in C. E.F., Admty. C. in C. Pacific Fleet, (U.S.) Opnav, A.C.N.B., Navy Office, Melbourne. (R)C.O.S. Singapore R.N.O. Suva). *0120Z/14

/U.S....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

U.S.Convoys. Departure Suva 14/12 U.S. Cruiser PENSACOLA and convoy for Brisbane.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 1737M/14 to Admty., A.C.N.B., C.O.S. Singapore, C. in C. E.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.12.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

O.S.12 (attacked 29/11 - 2/12). All stragglers from O.S.12 arrived except ASHBY and SHEAFHOLME. Not clear if ASHBY sailed in O.S.12 and SHEAFHOLME understood to be still at Ponta Delgada, MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA has reported and expected today. (C.in C. S.A. 1040Z/14 to Admty.).

Tanker BADALONA torpedoed. (i) Hudson aircraft sighted U/B at 7 miles at 1605A in 036° 35' N. 001° 45' W. attacked with bombs no hits. (ii) Spanish ship torpedoed about 14 miles E. of Malaga night of 12/13 believed ?(by) U/B. No British or Allied S/M's. in the vicinity. (F.O.C.N.A. 2252A/14 to Admty. C.in C. Med.).

Submarines Reported.

0930 (Med.) U/B 045°. Kenay Is. 19 at 0930. (Alexandria W/T 0934/14 to FARNDALE).

1230A. Probable 2 Italian S/M's. in vicinity of O.S.13. (F.O.C.N.A. 1230A/14 to ROCHESTER).

Estimated approximate positions. (D.D.I.C. 1420A/14, 1428A/14).

1958A Following has been read.
BRITISH CONFIDENCE 57.35 N. 24.27 W. submarine on surface.
(Wick Radio 1958/14).
BRITISH CONFIDENCE reports U/B on surface in 57° 35' N. 24° 27' W. at 1958A/14.
(D.D.I.C. 2022Z/14 to Opnav).
Intercepted at 1958 G.M.T. SSSS BRITISH CONFIDENCE, 57.35 N. 24.27 W. Submarine on surface, not yet attacked.
(Port Patrick Radio 2058/14 to Navycharge Greenock).
Ref. my 1955, 057° 16' N. 024° 50' W. Submarine sighted on surface has dived, not since seen, no action, wind force 7, moderate gale N.W, visibility distance 4 miles, sea rough, overcast, squally position uncertain.
(BRITISH CONFIDENCE 2320/14 to Admlty, Plymouth Admty.).

1925C. Bearing by D/F at 1925C/14 position of U/B was 069° 43' 034° 40' E. reliable fix.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2046C/14 to Admty. Rep. KENT, SHEFFIELD).

/1949C.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 14.12.1941.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1949C. Bearing by D/F at 1949C/14, position of enemy U-boat was 071° N., 029° 20' E., reliable fix. (?S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 2050C/14, to Admty., (R) SEAWOLF.)

13/12. Aircraft reports sighting enemy submarines on 13/12. At 1047 one 036° 34' N., (?) 002° 40' W., at 1124 one 036° 15' N., 002° 40' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 2236A/14 to URSULA.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. U-boat attacked by aircraft in 036° 35' 001° 45' W., at 1605/14.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1636A/14, to URSULA.)

One enemy Submarine 196° Cape Trafalgar 26, course 030°, aircraft attacked (?my 0540)
(F.O.C.N.A. 2325A/14 to WISHART, COLTSFOOT, SPIREA, AZALEA, ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM.)
My 2325A/14. Amend to read 189° Cape Trafalgar 31. (F.O.C.N.A., 0709A/15 to Ships Escorting O.G.76, ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, WISHART, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT.)

By TALISMAN. TALISMAN engaged U-boat with gunfire at 1850/14 about 140 miles N.N.E. Bardia. A hit was scored at base of conning tower and U/B is considered to have sunk.
(D.O.R. 16/12.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is reported that PRINZ EUGEN undocked yesterday and that SCHARNHORST is to undock tomorrow and GNEISENAU on 21/12. Ammunition is ready for embarking. All available S/Ms of 7th Flotilla and JUNON, O.21, REGENT and URSULA (from North Atlantic) were ordered to be sailed for 14 days' patrol in the Bay of Biscay.

A convoy designated H.M. being the reverse of an M.H. convoy, is to run as an experiment from Holyhead to Milford Haven.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 19 rounds at Dover this afternoon. No naval damage or casualties are reported.

Enemy Air Operations.

3 bombs, which did not explode were dropped in Mid Yell Voe (Shetlands) this afternoon.

LIDDESDALE reported being attacked at 1730 today off Spurn Point.

North Atlantic.

The effectiveness of A.S.V. Swordfish for work in the Straits of Gibraltar was definitely established last night during the passage of convoy H.G.76; 4 or 5 contacts were obtained, resulting in 3 attacks. Additional fully trained personnel are urgently required. Up to date these patrols have been provided solely by ARGUS, involving heavy drain on her flying resources.

/N.A. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - contd.

N.A. Madrid reports that all sailings of Spanish ships to U.S.A. and Cuba have been stopped provisionally, pending German guarantee of non-interference.

Mediterranean.

R/C of Taranto p.m. today showed 2 LITTORIO and 3 CAVOUR battleships, 7 cruisers, 31 destroyers and 15 S/Ms in the outer harbour, and one (salved) CAVOUR battleship stern on to the graving dock in the inner harbour. 4 liners, 3 tankers and 12 other merchant vessels were present. PORPOISE has torpedoed a 6000 ton merchant ship, which is beached near Cape Methoni. TORBAY has been ordered to try to destroy the ship.

11 Wellingtons last night bombed shipping and wharves at Benghazi.

East Indies.

C. in C. India assumed command of Burma, including the Air Forces at 0630 G.M.T. today.

China.

Hong Kong. A.P.V. INDIRA was sunk alongside during air attack on Aberdeen today.

/Malaya ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China contd.

Malaya, Burma and Siam. — It is doubtful whether it will be possible to hold Penang which has no adequate garrison for increased scale of attack. Enemy aircraft have mined Penang North Channel.

MAURITIUS, ELECTRA and EXPRESS left Singapore today.

Wake. — There was a further air raid last night by 6 - 4 engined seaplanes.

Philippines. — There were a few light air attacks today.

America and West Indies.

N.C.S.O. Colon reports that Atlantic shipping is still held up. The orders come from Admiral Commanding 15th Naval District, Balboa.

No reinforcements can be sent to the New found Zealand Escort Force (see 24/11.) It is considered, however, that whilst the U-boat menace in the North Atlantic remains small a reduction in the number of escorts to an average of 5 can be accepted.

Australia and New Zealand.

A Japanese S/M surfaced off Mawi Island (Hawaii) today and fired several rounds into the town of Kahulu.

2 surface vessels today bombarded Johnson Island (750 miles W.S.W. of Hawaii.)

/The ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand contd.

The flag of Admiral Commanding the Australian Squadron was hoisted in CANBERRA today.

U-Boat Campaign.

At 0348/15 ~~and~~ S.S. EMPIRE BARRACUDA (on Government service) was sunk in 35° 28' N. 6° 15' W.

NESTOR attacked a German submarine at 1100 today in 197° Cape St. Vincent 35 miles; F.O.C.N.A. considers the U-boat was undoubtedly destroyed, as wreckage with German markings was recovered.

Portuguese S.S. CASSEQUEL was sunk by a S/M, believed German, time and position reported to be 2000 G.M.T./14 in 35° 8' N. 11° 14' W. The ship was bound for Lobito with general cargo and some war materials.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Scapa Boom Equipment. Your 1515A/13. Work on discharging RALLUS delayed owing to weather. Three days required to complete discharge when weather moderates. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 1620A/15).

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian Convoys. Proposed use of Murmansk instead of Archangel. Reasons and details. (S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1335C/15) See Lion Copy.

Movements.

KENYA. Scapa arrival 0715 C.S.10 in KENYA. (A.C.O.S., 0718A/15).

H.32. Sailing of H.32 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore, 0748A/15)
Sailing of H.32 delayed 24 hours. Amend my 1624A/14. (Capt. S.7., 1134A/15 to S/Ms Area A).
My 1139A/14. Cancel para 2 and substitute new para. 2. Thence LA CAPRICIEUSE R/V with H.32 as stated in S.7's. 1536A/14.
(Capt. S.3., 1544A/15).

MAPLIN. Intend to sail MAPLIN 0001A/16 to arrive Bar L.V. 1200A/16. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1012A/15).

BERWICK. Scapa departure BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 1012A/15 to A.C.I.C.)

REGENT. P.38. My 1030A/14. For 0845/17 and 0500/17 read 0845/18 and 0500/18.
(2) My 1100A/14. Add 24 hours to all times in para one, 4, 5, and 6.
(Capt. S.5., 1013A/15 to REGENT, P.38).
F.O.(S) 2211A/15. Intend ordering REGENT to R/V in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0930A/17.
Request escort may be arranged and Lizard Head Light shown for 10 minutes every half hour from 0600 until daylight 17 Dec.
(Capt. S.5., 2320A/15 to C. in C. Plymouth).

A.M.C. Movements. Following forecast of movements of A.M.Cs. leaving U.K. corrected to 15/12. Details.
(S.O.W.P., 1210A/15).

/P.37...

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

P.37. Your 1745A/13. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1556A/15 to A.C.O.S.)

GARTH, QUORN. Departures GARTH, QUORN in company at 1640 to anchor at the Humber L/F to await further orders. (F.O. Humber, 1651A/15).

HALCYON. Your 1038A/14. HALCYON is to be sailed to Scapa with all dispatch in accordance with A.M.1607A/26/11. (D.M.S., 1718A/15 to C. in C. Nore).

HYDRANGEA. Your 1652/14. Owing to late arrival of Oerlikon equipment completion will be deferred 48 hours. Vessel will leave Tyne with maximum armament on 21/12. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1741/15).

SHEFFIELD. SHEFFIELD is to sail for Scapa now. (C. in C. H.F., 2346A/15) See Shipping.

Operations.

Operation "Anklet". My 1149A/14 postponed two hours. (Sailing of PRINCE ALBERT and P.J. CHARLOTTE)
(V.A. C.T.C., 0854A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
(i) Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by STELLA PEGASI at 1400/16 to 060° 52' N., 001° 02' 30" W. E.T.A. 0700/17. Then unescorted diving by day through positions (a) 063° N., 1° E., (b) 66° N., 7° E., to area of operation North of 066°., N., and East of 007° E. Request T.B.R., as follows. (A.C.O.S., 1155A/15).
My 1149A/14. P.J. CHARLOTTE sailed, PRINCE ALBERT follows one hour later. E.T.A. first 1530. (V.A. C.T.C., 1246A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
My 1149A/14. PRINCE ALBERT sailed.
(V.A. C.T.C., 1427A/15 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Sailed GUDRUN MAERSK, ACANTHUS, EGLANTINE in accordance with my 1029A/13.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1532A/15).
Intend to sail KRAKOWIAK leaving Plymouth 1800/15 to Scapa. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1532/15).
Intend sailing PRINCE ALBERT and PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE escorted by KUJAWIAK a.m./16 for Scapa. C. in C. Plymouth's 1532A/15 refers. S. of A. 18 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1816A/15).

/Exchange...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations-Contd.

Exchange of Prisoners. Operation J.W. is cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1307A/15).

Sweep in Northern Waters. My 1307C/13. Operation was cancelled due to weather and information contained in your 2258/13. C. in C. Northern Fleet still desires to carry out swwep if British cruiser support can be given and if Soviet destroyers are not required for British convoy escort. 48 hours notice required to clear submarine areas. Propose KENT. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.18. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 16390/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

RUBIS. Propose RUBIS leaves Dundee 20/12 to arrive in patrol position 10 to 15 miles West of Utvoer about 23/12 remaining on patrol about 7 days. (F.O.S. 1828A/15 to C. in C. H.F.)

Dover Shelled. Enemy coastal batteries fired nineteen rounds at Dover between 1515 and 1732 today. No damage to Naval property and no naval casualties reported. (V.A. Dover 1832A/15).

Biscay S/M Patrol. Bring all available S/Ms of 7th Flotilla and JUNON and O.21 to immediate notice for 14 days patrol in Bay of Biscay. Report when S/Ms and escorts will be ready to sail. (F.O.S. 2138A/15). REGENT is to be ordered to Falmouth to refuel and disembark passengers and is to be prepared to sail for a patrol in Bay of Biscay as soon as possible. (F.O.S. 2211A/15).
F.O.S. 2138A/15.
A. Submarines are to be sailed when ready. Patrol positions and routes will be signalled.
B. F.O.S. will arrange necessary S.B.R. in areas 51 52 54 56 72 73 75 and 76.
(F.O.S. 2341A/15 to S.3, S.5. S.7.)

Bay of Biscay, Patrol Positions. Patrol Positions Nos. 01 to 14 both inclusive are established as follows. (F.O.S. 2342A/15). See Summaries Folder.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

810 and 829 Sqdns. from ILLUSTRIOUS FORMIDABLE.

Admtys. 1936A/9. On arrival request you fly 810 Squadron and 829 Squadron to Machrihanish. Machrihanish will then route Martlets as necessary, 810 Squadron to Lee-on-Solent and 829 to R.N.A.S. Eastleigh (Southampton). (R.A.N.A.S. 1231A/15 to ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE).

Operation of Kites and Balloons by Ships.

Your 1310A/22. Concur. (Air Ministry 1452/15).

Enemy Air Activity.

LIDDESDALE attacked.

Am being attacked by enemy A/C. (LIDDESDALE 1730/15).
Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist LIDDESDALE. (Rosyth W/T 1737/15).

Shetlands attacked.

Enemy A/C unidentified coming from S.S.W. dropped 3 bombs within 50 to 150 yards of nearest of 4 fishing trawlers in Mid Yell Voe at 1357A/15. Bombs fell in water depth 5 fathoms and did not explode. Two of trawlers opened fire with L.M.G. Aircraft made off N.W. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1822A/15)

Mining.

Lowestoft.

Lowestoft Harbour will be opened to coastal force craft at 0800A/17. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1038A/15).

Sweep off Dover.

Trawlers CLYTHNESS and TAIPO sweeping between Dover and Dumpton estimated time of departure 1715, E.T.R. 0330/16. (V.A. Dover 1730A/15).

Q.Z.R.33 and 34.

Q.Z.R. 33 and 34. It seems to me that there is a distinct possibility that the enemy may put deeper mines in various channels now formed between these 2 areas and land.
(F.O.S. 1714A/15 to S.B.N.O. Murmansk.)

Humber.

At 1108A today L.L. Trawlers detonated one magnetic mine in 014° Humber L/F 0.8 miles. (F.O. Humber 2020A/15).

/East.....

MOST SECRET.

0

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining-Contd.

East Coast M/S Patrol.

My 1228/15 is passed to you for information. Begins.
As soon as sufficient M/S trawlers are available and M/S Patrol is to be started on the swept channels between H.3 and the Sheringham buoys.
2. Two trawlers are to be stationed on each channel buoy during dark hours., one of each pair being fitted with Type 140 listening gear if sufficient vessels so fitted are available.
3. Q.Z.S. 277 is to be occupied first and as more trawlers become available Q.Z.S. 308 is to be filled.
4. Trawlers in Q.Z.S. 277 are to withdraw 2 miles to the westward of the channel provided safe navigation admits during the passage of convoys those in Q.Z.S. 308 withdrawing 2 miles to the eastward in a similar manner.
5. As these trawlers will be too far from Base to return during daytime they are to join up in groups of four for mutual protection from air attack during daylight hours.
6. Attention is called to my 1426A/11 the provisions of which are to apply generally to this patrol.
7. Three days notice of the intended commencing date is to be given to enable necessary information to be promulgated. 1228A/15. Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 2322A/15 to Adty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Reported that:
(i) PRINZ EUGEN undocked 14/12.
(ii) SCHARNHORST is to undock 16/12.
(iii) GNEISENAU is to undock 21/12. Ammunition is ready for embarking. Graded B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 1659A/15).

Navigational.

No. 36 Buoy.

Commodore of W.N. 17 reports No. 36 buoy light now flashing every 3 seconds at 1900/13.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1043/15).

Ice in Denmark Straits.

My 1241N/12. 24° 5' W. should read 23° 05' W.
(A.C.I.C. 1551N/15 to Adty. Reptd. SUFFOLK, C. in C. H.F., R.A.M., C.S.1.)

Loch Ewe.

Loch Ewe - Western Gate Vessel lights unreliable.
(Hydrographer 1743A/15).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Recognition Procedure. Admiralty 896A/9th December (Basegram) delete whole of para. 2 and substitute following new para.
"2. Following Emergency Recognition Procedure to be employed. Details."
It should be noted that above new emergency recognition procedure comes into force at 0001 G.M.T. 1st January 1942. (D.S.D. 2248A/15).

Casualties and Defects.

THYME. Serious leak developed in engine room, presumably sprung plate. Water still under control but leak getting worse. Request permission to return to Londonderry for docking. (THYME 0855A/15).

ST. ALBANS. Sailing of ST. ALBANS delayed by defects. (C. in C. Nore 1002A/15).

M.A/S B. 30. Regret to report the loss of M.A/S B. 30 which fouled the boom whilst proceeding for rescue work on night 13/14. Vessel was successfully removed from Boom on 14th, but tow parted and she disappeared after dark.
It is still hoped that she may be found ashore. (F.O. Humber 1045A/15).

VETERAN. New A.S.V. out of action. Further damage upper deck and armament, leaking aft, so far not serious. Do not consider any alteration of course advisable at present. (VETERAN 1315A/15).

NIDARDAL (Norwegian, 2368 Tons.) De NIDARDAL Lat.56° 07' N. 21° W. 1600 G.M.T. Sinking slowly, leaking badly in engine room, cannot keep her empty with pumps. Send help. Ends. (Valentia Radio 1612/15).
Detach one Corvette to assist NIDARDAL. (C. in C. W.A. 1756A/15 to WATCHMAN).
Water inlet pipes in engine room broken. Water now reaching boilers all pumping stopped. Have been drifting in South Easterly, wind W.N.W. strong gale. (NIDARDAL 1826/15).
Have despatched PICTOU to assist ship. (ST. LAURENT 1846Z/15 to C. in C. W.A.)

/HALCYON.....

MOST SECRET.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.-Contd.

HALCYON. HALCYON reports intermediate starboard propeller shaft out of line and bearings are running hot. Ship is being retained at Sheerness. (C. in C. Nore 1830A/15).

FRISKY. Following received from Inspector of Tug Equipment Glasgow. Begins:- FRISKY arrived Greenock with serious leaks in Mess Decks. Leaks are expected in tank tops. 1645/15/12. Ends... Request instructions. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1847A/15 to Adty.).

SADO. A.M. 1516A/5. Request Tug LYNCH may be instructed to assist S.S. SADO from Scrabster to Aberdeen on her way to Tyne. Tug is required for steering purposes only. (D. of S.T. 2352A/15 to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Q.P.4. Report earliest anticipated date Q.P. four reaches Ice Edge. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 02490/15 Your 1421A/14. C. in C. Northern Fleet, states two STREMTELNI class destroyers available subject to final approval of Moscow to escort Q.P.4. to 26° E. Fuel carried stated to be prepared to this limit.
2. S.B.N.O. Archangel instructed to report date of departure of Q.P.4.
3. It appears likely that delay of final sailing Q.P.4. may make it convenient for EDINBURGH, ECHO, ESCAPADE to escort.
Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., C.S.18.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 03030/15).
S.B.N.O. Archangel 2230/14. Expect sail WANSTEAD TREKIEVE, COCLE, ELCAPITAN, SUKHONA, THLINGRAD Timber, Tankers SANAMBOSIU and EULIMA in ballast, BRIARWOOD THEHATA in ballast. All for Seidesfjord except two tankers for Akreyri. Admiralty please pass to all addressees. (N.C.S.O. Archangel 10000/15).
SHEFFIELD is to sail for Scapa now. EDINBURGH ECHO, ESCAPADE, LEDA and SEAGULL are to form ocean escort for Q.P.4. (C. in C. H.F. 2346A/15).

/C.W.61.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

C.W.61. Sailing of C.W.61 postponed 24 hours owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 0750A/15).

P.W.D.81. My 1230/13. P.W.D. 81 "Ounce" postponed owing to weather. (N.C.S.O. Plymouth 0810/15). P.W.D. 81. Cancel my 1230/13. (N.C.S.O. Plymouth 1145/15).

W.P. 81. My 1540/9. REINE DES FLOTS will be delayed twenty four hours. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0937/15).

H.X. 163. Not met. My P.C.S. at 1200Z/15 058°40' N. 022° (52' ?) W. 270°, 3 knots. (MONTBRETIA 1201Z/15). My 1756A/15. ARABIS is to carry out instructions in this signal. DAHLIA remain with HX 163. (C. in C. W.A. 1934A/15 to ARABIS, DAHLIA, WATCHMAN).
H.X. 163. ARABIS's 1300A/15. BEGONIA is to join that portion at present escorted by DAHLIA unless already escorting any M.V's. (C. in C. W.A. 2009A/15 to BEGONIA).

P.Q.6. My 2230/14. Three Russian A/S Trawlers will meet P.Q. 6 off Cape Terski Orlov at 1000C/19 to take over from our Minesweepers whose presence in vicinity of ice causes me anxiety. Russian trawlers will escort convoy to Icebreaker STALIN who will be at ice edge and may not go all the way to Terski Orlov. Fighter protection arranged. Admiralty pass to all addressees. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 1310C/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, EDINBURGH, M.S.1.)
A.M. 1218A/29/11, S.B.N.O. Archangel's 2230C/14. P.Q.6. P.C.S. 073° 40' N. 022° 08' E. at 1200A, 090°, 9 knots. E.T.A. position P 2200C/18. On local escort join DEKABRIST, ELONA, KARELO and ocean escort will part company, E.T.A. Kola Inlet 1330C/19. Approach M.Z. on course 255°, speed of advance 8½ knots. Request (? group) P. BEACON 03 (? 28) to 0600C/19 and Group Z Light 1000 to 1400C/19. (C.S.18 1424A/15 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

/Q.P.5.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

15.12.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

Q.P.5. Admiralty's 2132A/14 and 0327A/15. In view of long delay to Q.P.4. and probable consequent delay to Q.P.5. would you consider EDINBURGH returning to Scapa independently after arrival of P.Q.6. CUMBERLAND escorting Q.P.5. (C.S. 18 1517A/15 to C. in C. H.F.) Your 1517A/15. Cruiser requirements are so urgent regret SHEFFIELD cannot be delayed. (C. in C. H.F. 2352A/15 to C.S.18).

D.S.19. S.D. 19. D.S. 20. Convoy D.S.19 composed of SOBIESKI and ORBITA will leave Clyde on 27/12 returning as S.D. 19. 2000 troops will be carried in D.S.19 and 3600 in S.D. 19.
R.A. (M) is requested to arrange for one extra destroyer to return with S.D. 19.
D.S. 20 will consist of one ship and will leave Clyde 14/1.
Thereafter convoys will normally consist of one ship sailing every 14 days. (D.O.D. H. 1522A/15).

KIWI. H.M.N.Z.S. KIWI is to be sailed to St. Johns Newfoundland in O.N. Convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1748A/15).

P.W.81. BROCKLESBY defective. Continue with P.W. 81 to Milford Haven. Gt. Yarmouth F Trawlers will sail from Plymouth to relieve Gt. Yarmouth D. Trawlers A.M. 16th. (C. in C. Plymouth 1830/15 to TYNEDALE).

Southbound Convoys in Irish Sea. In order that southbound Convoys in the Irish Sea should not be held back by the inclusion of Coasters from Holyhead, it is intended as an experiment that the reverse to an "M.H." Convoy, designated "H.M." should be run from Holyhead to Milford Haven. This return Convoy would be run under the operational control of Milford Haven, and would consist of Coasters.
2. Larger vessels, i.e., well over the Coaster tonnage, bound for Bristol Channel ports or further south,,will join B.B. Convoys as before, except as in para. 3.
3. When a "B.B." Convoy is formed consisting of ships from an H.X. Convoy a separate Holyhead section designated B.B. (H) is to be formed when additional A.A. escort is available. This convoy will leave Holyhead between 1100 and 1300 on the same day as the "B.B." leaves Belfast, and will proceed to Scarweather in the usual manner.
4. This will allow the "B.B." to be sailed from Belfast at about 0600, and to proceed through the Irish Sea at its best speed, which will probably be 9 knots or over.
5. Request your remarks by signal, in order

/that....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Southbound Convoys in Irish Sea. - Contd.	that this may be implemented as soon as possible. (C. in C. W.A. 1915A/15 to F.O.I.C. Belfast Milford Haven and N.O.I.C. Holyhead).
Confidential Books for U.S. Ships.	Pass to N.C.S.Os. Reference C.B. 03050 (8) and (9), N.C.S. Is. 283/4 now superseded by N.C.S. Is. 388-390 in course of distribution. U.S. merchant vessels are to be treated as Allied for purpose of issuing confidential books. (D.T.D. 1933A/15).
Issue of Routeing Instructions.	Pass to N.C.S.Os. As an essential measure of security routeing instructions are to be issued to Masters of merchant ships as shortly before sailing as possible. If the Master of an independently routed ship intends to remain ashore the night before sailing, the route instructions should not be issued overnight. (D.T.D. 1944A/15).
LA NOUNE.	Your 1215/5. Report whether LA NOUNE is delayed for any reason other than weather. (D. of S.T. 2119A/15 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ROCKROSE
JASMINE.

Due at Ponta Delgada a.m./17th require 135 and 100 tons oil fuel respectively. Please arrange.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0114A/15 to N.A. Lisbon, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)

VANQUISHER.

E.T.A. Ponta Delgada 0800Z/15th. WITCH with VOLUNTEER in company E.T.A. 1100Z/15
(VANQUISHER, 0312A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.A., 0515A/15 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
Weather too rough to enter Ponta Delgada. Waiting till it moderates. Weather report.
(VANQUISHER, 1458A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1600/15 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

OLYMPUS.

Sails from Gibraltar at 1800/15 through 036° 25' 002° 00' W. diving by day on 16th. S. of A. 10½ knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0936A/15 to URSULA.)

SERAFIN
TOPIC
(? COZALLA)

Your 1345/14. Endeavour (corrupt group) to discover destination and whether loaded. Suggest she may have proceeded Nemours to load manganese before loading rubber.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1006A/15 to Wagon, Tangier.)
SERAFIN TOPIC, ex Yugoslav, reported to have been turned over to Italians, and name to have been changed to COZALLA.
(D.S., 832, 15/12.)

O.21.

To be transferred to the 9th Flotilla for period of refit in U.K.
(F.O.S., 1119A/15 to S.8, (R) Capt. S. Home, Admiralty, C. in C. Rosyth, S.O.D.S., B.D.Z., F.O.C.N.A.)

Oran
Intelligence,
DUNKERQUE.

Following received from 200 Group (begins) : P.R.U. Maryland. French B.C. DUNKERQUE still in Oran. Sighted two large vessels and three smaller close inshore off Cape Falcon moving west along coast. Tonnage not observed owing to height. T.O.O. 1720A/14 (ends).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1242A/15 to Admty.)

/Human ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Human Torpedoes.

In order to avoid confusion, the type of craft which recently made an attack on Gibraltar, i.e. a type of small submarine which is navigated from outside, should be referred to as a "human torpedo".
The term "midget submarine" should not be used unless it refers to a small submarine, which carries its crew internally and is of the order of 20 feet length.
The small motor boat with an explosive charge in bow, as used by the Italians at Crete, should be referred to as an "explosive motor boat".
(D.N.I., 1408A/15 "A" message.)

HESPERUS H.G.76.

Departure HESPERUS additional local escort H.G.76.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1440A/15 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., STORK.)

CARNATION.

CARNATION parted company H.G.75 a.m. today to join you. CARNATION is to act in accordance with my 1652A/14 on arrival COLTSFOOT.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1500A/15 to WISHART.)

UNA.

My P.C. and S. of A. at 1530A/15 (? 043°) 00' N. 010° 30' W., 187°, 8 knots. Patrol reports blank. Attacked by S/M torpedo at (corrupt group) (? 11) A/15th in above position. Unable to receive G.S. routine signals while diving. Weather report.
(UNA, 1705A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., rep. Capt. S.8, F.O.S.)

MANXMAN.

1. Urgently required for offensive operations during present dark night period. 2. Request you will expedite disembarkation of stores and personnel and sail her for Milford Haven accordingly.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1709A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Vichy Intelligence. ST. DENIS. African Bases.

My 2009/13. Your 1355A/13 and Washington 1745R/14. When I spoke to French N.A. as instructed he immediately replied he had last night received orders to inform me: (1) French Admty. already been convinced we have not sunk SAINT DENIS.
(2) French Admty. anxious to co-operate with us to avoid misunderstandings due to German action or lies particularly at this moment.
(3) French Govt. had not ceded or promised any bases in Africa to Axis under any conditions.

/He said ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Vichy Intelligence. ST. DENIS. African Bases. (Contd.)	He said his Ambassador had instructions to see H.M. Ambassador to repeat point (3) and also following: (a) French Govt. will proclaim neutrality. (b) French Govt. wish to reopen American aid Liaison with French Africa under guarantee. H.M. Ambassador informed. I am sure that desire for collaboration against German attempts to embroil French and us is genuine and I undertook to scout. (N.A. Madrid, 1737/15 to Admty.)
Spanish Shipping.	Source grade P/O received by telephone information that Spanish liner MARQUES DE COMILLAS due (? through) Vigo today for New York cancelled sailing atlast moment. (N.A. Lisbon, 1745/15 to Admty., (R) Gibraltar, N.A. Madrid.)
NESTOR.	My 1200Z/14. 3 hours late. Ships in company GURKHA, (? FOXHOUND). CROOME detached. (NESTOR, 1800A/15 to F.O.C.N.A., (R) S.O. Force H., Capt. D.13.)
OLYMPUS.	My 1747A/13. Departure OLYMPUS C. in C. Med. pass to Capt. (S) 1, N.O.i/c Malta pass to Capt. (S) 10. (F.O.C.N.A., 1802A/15 to C. in C. Med.)
GRELHEAD, FJORD (attacked 1/12, 2/12.)	Ref. sinking S.S. GRELHEAD and Norwegian FJORD both in Spanish territorial waters. H.M. Ambassador has received no instructions to lodge protest on similar lines to case of SARASTONE. Submit not expedient to allow cases to pass without protest irrespective of any other action we may contemplate. (N.A. Madrid, 1855/15 to Admty.)
Spanish Shipping.	Ref. Embassy Arfar telegram 1941 to M.E.W. repeated Gibraltar about Spanish GENERALIFE needing bunker Gibraltar for voyage to New York. Submit in present circumstances we should do everything possible to assist voyage of Spanish ship to U.S.A. Spanish Govt. have stopped 3 voyages for coal, but inform all other companies that voyages are (? probably) ? complete.* I have encouraged every one to continue normal sailing U.S.A. Please take this up with M.E.W. H.M. Ambassador concurs. (N.A. Madrid, 2040/15 to Admty., rep. F.O.C.N.A.) * Correction "at discretion".

/German ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

German and Spanish Shipping.	My 2040/15. All sailings U.S.A. and Cuba stopped, provisionally pending German guarantee non interference. Interim reply by German Embassy favourable "If no Contraband of War Carried". GENERALIFE not affected as she considered as already on voyage. (N.A. Madrid, 2103/15 to Admty.)
UNA, P.35.	My 1106A/14 para. 3, adjust speed to pass position Q at 0300/18. Diving by day on 18th instead of 17th. (F.O.C.N.A., 2306A/15 to UNA, P.35.)
URSULA, Biscay Patrol.	Your 1920/12. In view of Admty. 1659/15* request you will recall URSULA forthwith and sail her as soon as ready for Biscay patrol, details of which will be ordered by F.O.(S). (A.C.N.S. (F), 2329A/15 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Force H., F.O.S., C. in C. W.A.) *Enemy units at Brest and oiling and ammunition ready to embark.

South Atlantic.

BRIDGEWATER.	Departure 14/12. BRIDGEWATER E.T.A. Freetown p.m./18. (R.N.O. Lagos, 0800Z/15 to C. in C. S.A.)
MONTANAN.	Overdue shipping, cancel my 1000/14. MONTANAN arrived Durban. (S.O.I. Capetown, 0938B/15.)
Transports, Diversion.	Admty. 1942/14 ships numbers 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 are now at Durban. S.S.T.O. Durban is requested to divert number 7 due Capetown 23/12. Remainder in Indian Ocean. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0946Z/15 to C. in C. E.I.)
SAGA DAHOC wreckage, suspected raider.	My 1737/11 and my 1716/13 are being passed to you for information. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1012B/15 to B.A.D.)

/FIRMAMENT ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

FIRMAMENT, ISLAY, DAYBREAK. Your 1623/11 FIRMAMENT sailed 11/12 vide my 1103/11. (? ISLAY) to sail 16/12. DAYBREAK expected to sail about 10/1 after extensive overhaul of damage to grounding suspected. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1050Z/15 to Admty.)

CROMARTY FIRTH. My 1040D/15 (1040Z/14 intended). Weston reports CROMARTY FIRTH was included in O.S.R. 12. Request confirmation as vessel has not arrived. (C. in C. S.A., 1108Z/15 to Admty.) Reply: 1844/17.

W.S.12X. Sailed 13/12. List. Oil fuel and water required Aden. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1221Z/15 to D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

SURCOUF. C. in C. A.W.I., 1242Q/13.* Onward route from position (A) through position (B) 011° 50' N. 026° 30' W. thence to Freetown. Request expected S. of A. on passage. (C. in C. S.A., 1231Z/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)
* Route for SURCOUF.

Whale Catchers. Admty. 2220/10/11. Delete reference to VESTFOLD 11 in my 1025/11/12 and substitute VESTFOLD 6. Following whale catchers are now in Capetown. VESTFOLDS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10. BUSENS 7, 10, and 11. HELIER 1. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1507Z/15 to Admty.)

ANN SKAKEL, ELIN K. Have you any news of American ANN SKAKEL due Capetown 7/12 from New York and Norwegian ELIN K. due Durban 8/12 from Port Stanley. (D.T.D., 1604A/15 to S.O.I. Capetown.)

M.L.244. Your 1208A/28/11. Request probable sailing date of M.L.244. With shortage obtaining locally it would be much appreciated if maximum number sparking plugs, six coils ignition, six distributor caps and eight tins lockheed fluid could be bought by M.L.244. (C. in C. S.A., 1731Z/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Libya. Military Situation Report.
(C. in C. M.E., 0100/15) See Lion Copy.

THRASHER, M/V attacks 25/11. C.A.F.O. 1278/41.
(a) 25/11 (b) 5000 tons M/V probably A.M.C.
(J) 1 hit. Left with heavy list, bows down and on fire. (a) 25/11 (b) 4000 tons M/V. (J) Miss. Target was standing by previous victim and went ahead as torpedo was fired.
(Capt. S.1, 0201B/15 to Admty.)

UNIQUE, enemy battleship. 1 Battleship P.C. and S. 037° 42' 015° 42',095°, 19 passed out of range at 0900B/14th. Counter attack whilst endeavouring to close. Constant E. Boat patrol at night near position 037° 50' 015° 44'. E.T.A. Marsamxett 1800B/15. No torpedoes fired.
(UNIQUE 0258B/15 to Capt. S. 10.)

D.7. Your 1206B/14 and in view of F.O.C. 15th Cruiser Squad 0035/15, intend to search area until further orders.
(Capt. D. 7. 0426B/15 to C. in C. Med.)

D.14. D.7. Destroyers return to harbour except HERO and HASTY who are to continue to search for submarine.
(C. in C. Med., 0842B/15 to Capts. D.14 and 7.)
Return to harbour.
(C. in C. Med., 1456B/15 to HASTY, HERO, rep. Alexandria C. & C.O. D.2., C.S.15., R.A.D.)

Contact with Enemy Forces. Your 1857B/14 to C. in C. Med.(N.T.in W.D).
(a) In what longitude were shadowers first encountered?
(b) Was shadowing continuous?
(c) Do you consider movement of Italian force due to (?presence) of Group 1?
(d) Were any enemy reports of Group 1 intercepted?
(2) C. in C. Med., 1208B/14 not received.
(F.O. Force H., 0850A/15 to V.A. Malta)
Reply: 2332/16.

Enemy Units. 4 M/Vs 5000, 3 destroyers, 180 10 35 12 N. 11 70 (?07.) E. 10 V K.
(A/C MJKO 1005/15.)
Following has been received.
P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer 38.22 N., 18.46 E. (00?°) 20 knots.
(A/C B7G 1030/15.) * course corrupt as received.

/GALATEA ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

GALATEA sunk.

GALATEA torpedoed by U-boat and sunk at 2359/14th 30 miles West of Alexandria. At least two hits amidships. About 150 survivors. Regret Capt. Sim was not among survivors.
(C. in C. Med., 1105B/15 to Admty. (R) C.S.15.)

S/M Operations, Battleship hit.

UPRIGHT attacked 2 large unidentified ships and destroyer steering North at 0210/13 in 040° 09' N. 017° 04' E. and scored 4 hits with torpedoes.
2. URGE reports 2 hits on 2nd of 2 battleships steering Southward at 0858/14 in 037° 53' N. 015° 29' E.
3. TALISMAN engaged U-boat with gunfire at 1950/14 in 034° 05' N. 025° 39' E. Hit scored at base of conning tower and U-boat thought to have sunk.
4. No details yet of these successes.
(C. in C. Med., 1109B/15 to Admty.)

A/S Defence, Red Sea.

Your 1124B/22/11. Fixed A/S Defences cannot be relied upon in this area.
2. 1600 ton degaussed U-boat should be detected sixty fathoms above indicator loop in this latitude provided perturbations are negligible.
3. Dissemination of false information that mines have been laid in Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb is under consideration.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1125A/15 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Cruiser.

One cruiser 38.48 N., 19.26 E. 330° 28 knots.
(A/C 9 KT, 1120/15 to Hal Far.)

M/V torpedoed by PORPOISE.

Endeavour to destroy Merchant ship of 6000 tons reported beached near Cape Metheni after being torpedoed by PORPOISE.
(Capt. S.1, 1131B/15 to TORBAY repeated PORPOISE.)

Derna bombed. Alexandria Raid.

Opsum No.561. Night 13/14, weather bad, 15 Wellingtons bombed Derna Town and aerodrome.
(2) Egypt 14/12, during day 3 enemy aircraft approached Alexandria from N.W. remaining 30 miles out to sea, no attacks on shipping, Hurricanes patrolling Alexandria area unable to intercept.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1146/15.)

UPRIGHT P.31.

UPRIGHT leaves 039° 10' 017° 30' at 1900B/15 thence through 037° 30' 016° 45' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta 0730B/18.
P.31 passes through 039° 11' 017° 46' at 0001B/16, then patrolling in position A as in my 2145B/14.
(Capt. S. 10, 1150B/15 to UPRIGHT, P.31.)

/KONDOURIOTIS ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

KONDOURIOTIS. F.O.C.R.I.N. 1023/11. Cancel my 1731/9th. (1131/9 intended) and my 1525/4th (1525/7 intended) New programme for KONDOURIOTIS to use will be signalled later. (C. in C. Med., 1156B/15 to C. in C. E.I.)

A.11 ? B.N.O. Tobruk's 1045 (N.T. in W.R.) (?Position) noon 070° Ras Azzaz 12 miles course 122° S. of A. 6 knots. A.11 waterlogged. Situation hopeful. (KOS 19 1200/15 to Tobruk.)

UNBEATEN, SOKOL. UNBEATEN pass through 039° 20' 018° 00' at 0001B/17 then through 038° 47' 018° 00' and 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta a.m./19. SOKOL leave 039° 18' 018° 03' at 1900B/16 through 039° 28' 018° 17' to position C as in my 2145B/14. (Capt. S. 10, 1205B/15 to S/Ms named.)

French Fleet, Alexandria. Reply to Admty. 1156/15. (C. in C. Med., 1250B/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Enemy Destroyer. P.C. and S. of enemy, one destroyer, VGWR 0952, 135° 18 knots. (A/C 9 F.T.H., 1453/15 to Hal Far) Position indecypherable.

REWAK interception. Reply to Admty. 1504A/8 re treatment of French Officers Devin and Masson. (F.O. Red Sea, 1458B/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

Turkey. Situation. From Adm. Kelly (N.A. Ankara 1531B/15 to C. in C. Med.) See Lion Copy. M.A. Ankara 1550/15 to W.O. See Lion Copy.

Dardenelles Loop. Dardanelles indicator loop system completed and in continuous operation. Control station barracks completed. 7 core telephone cable laid and operating between Loop Station and Yeni Sehr on Asia Coast and thence by land line to Cannakale. Second 7 core telephone cable laid across Dardanelles between Sestos Light and A (2 corrupt groups) S Bay to connect Cannakale direct with Loop Station and boom defence depot. Land lines for latter cable not completed yet. Cable ship KAYA due for short refit before commencing Smyrna Loop system. No patrol vessels are stationed at Dardanelles. (A.N.A. Istanbul, 1614B/15 to Admty.)

/Tadjoura ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Tadjoura, Obok.

Air activity Potez 63, 5 trips. One dhow has left Tadjoura, situation Obok unchanged.
(LISMORE 1615Z/15 to N.O.I.C. Aden (R) Aden Force)

Enemy Convoy.

Re convoy 34.37 N - 11.20 E - CO 225° T.
(A/C 7 JK(?) 1625/15 to Hal Far.)

Air Report.

Night 14/15, 10 Mark 11 Wellingtons bombed shipping and Wharves Benghazi. Over target 1720 to 1820 hours all bombs target area, hits on wharves other sticks buildings surrounding target and centre of town and base outer Mole. 6 alerts 1705 to 0555 hours, 8 raiders, bombs land sea slight civilian damage no casualties.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/15.)

Ferry steamers CARDAK, SILVIRI for Turkey.

Following from Adm. Kelly.
Your 2000A/18 to C. in C. Med. If Turks have not been so informed it lessens our responsibilities, and makes repatriation of crews easier if these vessels are turned over to Turks at Alexandretta as in the case of all others.
Admty. pass to C. in C. Med.
(N.A. Ankara 1642B/15 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Photographs of Taranto 15/12 show :- Outer harbour, 2 LITTORIOS and 3 CAVOUR battleships. Inner harbour, Floating Dock empty, one CAVOUR stern on to south side of Graving Dock. 7 cruisers, 31 destroyers or torpedo boats and 15 S/Ms.
(V.A. Malta, 1845B/15 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. etc.) (Capt. S. 10 1947B/15 to S/Ms on Patrol) (V.A. Malta, 2046B/15 to Admty.)

S/Ms

Eastern Med. submarine movements summary 74.

Submarines.	Estimated noon position 16/12.	Estimated noon position 17/12.
PERSEUS	035° 04' N. 022° 34' E.	034° 08' N. 025° 26' E.
PORPOISE	035° 42' N. 023° 26' E.	035° 26' N. 026° 24' E.

THORN leaving Port Said approx. 1800B. E.T.A. Alexandria 1000B.
(Capt. S.1, 1845B/15 to Med. Fleet.)

/TALISMAN ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

TALISMAN. Do not cross latitude 031° 50' N. Surface Force will be crossing your track proceeding Westward about 0400B. Small convoy expected early a.m. from Westward escorted by Destroyers and Trawlers.
(Capt. S.1 1925B/15 to TALISMAN.)

A.11 abandoned. A.11 abandoned approx. 12 miles E. of Ras (GRA?) zzaz crew (?on board) AVON VALE. Tow impracticable as AVON VALE had to stand by COCKER then also in (? difficulties.) P.C. and S. at 2000, 031° 55' 025° 21' 103° 11½. COCKER in company.
(AVON VALE, 2015B/15 to R.A. Alexandria, HEYTHROP.)

E-Boat Activity. UNIQUE reports particular E-boat activities south of Del Armi. While closing at 80 feet for attack on 14/12 carried out explosive sweep. 3 ships were hunted, one certain E.boat. Withdraw if harassed and report.
(Capt. S. 10. 2137B/15 to URGE, UPHOLDER.)

JEDDAH. JEDDAH sunk position 026° 50' E. 031° 37' N. One survivor.
(Malta W/T, 2155/15 to Alexandria (R) S.O. Force I.)

Force K. Your 1245B/15. KANDAHAR and JAGUAR are in dock. Intend to sail AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE and LIVELY at 1800/16 to comply with para.4.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 2232B/15 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.15 C.S.)

UPRIGHT, enemy units hit. My 2350B/13. 3 hit and one (?group omitted). Considered to be warship. 51 depth charges. Destroyer traffic to and from Taranto appears to pass through position A speed 20 knots. Suspicious schooner generally in vicinity of Position A.
(UPRIGHT 2346B/15 to Capt. S. 10.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

West African Troop Movement. Your 0854/12. Request report of earliest possible date by which personnel could be at Mombasa or Durban preferably former. Agreed. N.O.I.C. Simonstown pass via P.S.T.O. to Force Nairobi. (D.of S.T. 0130A/15 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

Port Defences Your 2008/10/11 and my 1030/12/11 request information as to when these craft should reach Durban. (C.in C. E.I. 0240Z/15 to Admty.).

Ceylon ports of entry. For N.C.S.O's. the only ports of entry in Ceylon are Colombo and Trincomalee. Any ship bound for any other Ceylon port must first call at a port of entry for examination. Unidentified ships approaching coast elsewhere will be treated as hostile. (C.in C. E.I. 1016Z/15 to N.O.I.C. E.I. Station, rep.N.O.I.C. Penang, N.L.O.Durban, Admty. F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O.C. Red Sea Force, N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C. Simonstown, D.N.O. W. Australia, A.C.N.B. N.O. Melbourne. N.Z.N.B. N.O. Wellington, F.O. Malaya, N.O.I.C. Rangoon).

SONAVATI As a result of my recent request for loan of a further sloop for ocean A/S escort work F.O.C. R.IN has informed me that SONAVATI now at Colombo is being placed my disposal.
(2) This action is most helpful and I have to express my thanks.
(C.in C. E.I. 1026Z/15 to Admty. Rep. C.in C.E.F.)

QUEEN MARY A.M. 1809/14.
If the presence of QUEEN MARY at Trincomalee prevents warships being berthed there she should be sailed towards Capetown, in anticipation of a favourable reply being received from C.in C. South Atlantic.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1126A/15 to C.in C. E.I. C.in C. A.W.I.).

Addu Atoll. Details of underwater defences.
(C.in C. E.I. 1214Z/15 to Admty.) See Lion Copy.

KUNGWO Your (?1757)/14 (Presumably 1157/14 is intended which was not circulated, being a repetition of 0531/14). I shall be gald if KUNGWO be sent to Trincomalee.
(C.in C. E.I. 1224Z/15 to C.in C. E.F.).

/M./V's....

MOST SECRET.

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East Indies. -Contd.

M/V's. and aircraft recognition.

Your 1645/30 (1645/3 intended).
Little experience has so far been gained of this procedure on the station, HERMES reports as follows:-
Procedure has been tried successfully on a few occasions in October during raider patrols and has proved of value as far as can be judged from this limited experience.
(C.in C. E.I. 1406Z/15 to Admty.).

Small craft diversions.

Your 1855/12 (?1856/12 intended re AASE MAERSK GOLDMOUTH PEIK to be diverted to Mombasa), these 3 ships already sailed for Mombasa Lourenco Marques and Colombo respectively. Small craft all are to be diverted to Mombasa.
(C.in C. E.I. 1412Z/15 to Admty. Rep. N.C.S.O. Basra).
Your 1856A/12 1st ship due Mombasa 25th. 2nd ship diverted as instructed. 3rd ship due Colombo 18th not been diverted in view of proximity of (?Colombo).
(N.C.S.O. Abadan 1421Z/15 to Admty.).

W.S.12 X.

Request you will direct convoy W.S. 12 X to Bombay.
2. F.O.I.C. Simonstown's 2154/10. Suggest ORIZABA after calling at Mombasa for fuel should R/V with Bombay portion of W.S. 12 X.
(D.O.D. (F) 1608A/15 to C.in C. E.I.).

Burma Command.

Request no publicity be given transfer of Burma to India command at present. M.A. Chungking only. Ref. our 20860/G of 14/12 Chinese Govt. should be asked to treat matter as secret for the present.
(C.in C. India 1954/15 to C.in C. Far East, W.O. etc.).

Burma Communique.

Press Communique.
(?No) truth in broadcast report that British troops were in action across border in Northern Siam. Residents and garrison Victoria Point have been evacuated according to plan. No air activity today.
(G.O.C. Burma 2135/15 to W.O.).

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China.

Malaya. Military Situation Report. (G.O.C. Malaya 0610/15 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

LE TRIOMPHANT A.M. 2358A/13. Please ask LE TRIOMPHANT to signal a proposed programme passage from Sydney to Batavia calling Noumea on the way. On arrival Batavia LE TRIOMPHANT will receive further orders.
(C.in C. E.F. 0504Z/15 to A.C.N.B.).

Movements, Singapore departure 14/12 Netherland S/M's O.19 O.20. Departure 15th ELECTRA, EXPRESS, MAURITIUS, TARAKAN. Arrival 12th departure 13th SCOUT THANET.
(S.O.I. Singapore 0740Z/15 to Admty.).

Singapore Dockyard Guard.. In order that they may have status to assist in defence of Naval Establishments I am arranging with approval of C.in C. Eastern Fleet, that European Dockyard personnel are already armed with revolvers should form "Dockyard Guard" wearing suitable armlets.
(A.S. Singapore 0902Z/15 to Admty.).

Control by C.in C. India. Your 20788 13/12.
My 21/7 14/12.
W.O. 57777 (M.O.1.) 13/12.
Agree that control of Air Forces should be transferred to you subject to the following.
(A) That I have call on them for action against enemy shipping West of Kra Isthmus and for attacks on Jap columns about Bangkok and north part of Kra Isthmus until R.A.F. here have been greatly reinforced.
(B) That ADM responsibility also transferred to you.
(2) (Concerns 204 Mission).
(3) Intelligence. Suggest F.E.C.B. carries on as at present maintaining Liaison with your I Branch.
(4) Special operations "Mew". Suggest you should control activities in whole of Indo China and China and Thailand north of a line running E.W. through Victoria Point.
(C.in C. Far East 1241/15 to C.in C. India Rep. W.O. G.O.C. Burma).

N.E.I. Navy Co-operation. British Naval Passport, Batavia, informed me of view expressed by you to Adm. Royle and Cmdre.

/Parry.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

N.E.I. Navy Co-operation -Contd.

Parry at your recent meeting. My comments under existing circumstances are as follows.
(2) I am most grateful for your offer of 6 destroyers to work with Eastern Fleet when reformed. Question employment of Netherlands cruisers and destroyers with Fleet must, however now be in abeyance.
(3) Regarding employment and sphere of operations of U.S. Force, I am endeavouring to obtain Adm. Hart's present intentions and suggest you get (?in touch with) Adm. Glassford Commanding Task Force 5. I am inclined to think this force in existing circumstances could operate with success in N.E.I. waters based if necessary in a N.E.I. harbour.
(C.in C. E.F. 1506/15 to C.Z.M. Rep. C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty. N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B.).

Midget S/M's at Hawaii.

Following received from J.S.M. Washington.
At least two small 50 ft. submarines took part in last Sunday's attack in Hawaii. One was captured and one destroyed. They reached harbour in spite of A/S nets being closed.
(D.N.I. 1716A/15 to C.in C. E.F. C.In C. E.I.).

Shipment of Rubber and Sugar.

My 1915A/10. Shipment of rubber and sugar is of great importance. Any practicable opportunity of despatching such cargoes even in comparatively small quantities should be taken.
We should much appreciate information as to shipping position generally in Malay - Borneo N.E.I. area when this can be conveniently furnished.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1830A/15 to C.in C. E.F. Rep. C.in C. E.I.).

Mining Penang.

Q.D.B. 93. Penang north channel has been mined by aircraft and is dangerous to navigation.
(F.O. Malaya 2017Z/15 to China Stn).

Appreciation Requested Singapore.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E. 60.
Ref. your 19/7 of 15/12 and our F.E. No.55 of 10/12
Request early appreciation covering operational and administrative problems associated with protracted defence of Singapore. Your appreciation should take into consideration feeding of civil population.
(W.O. 2135/15 to C.in C. Far East).

/Hong.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.-Contd.

Hong Kong. — Sitrep night 14th /15th. THRACIAN entered Kowloon Bay and shelled two river steamers which blew up. Special Agent blew up third ship believed (?acting as) O.P. for (?enemy artillery) with a number of Japanese on board. Systematic shelling of P.B's. along north shore. Collection small craft in Kowloon Bay by Japanese continues and envisage possibility of attempted landings tonight for which suitable defensive preparations being completed. General impression that Japanese shelling is extremely accurate where old and well known batteries are concerned but noticeable recently sited out positions at Waterfall Bay and West Bay apparently unlocated. Air raid for R/C and nuisance value only. Bomb damage negligible. Two hits claimed on enemy aircraft. (G.O.C. Hong Kong 2250/15).

America and West Indies.

SHEHERAZADE. — Vichy tanker, seized by U.S. naval authorities at Mobile, Alabama. (D.S. 832).

BENCLEUCH — British 5562 tons, from London and Leith to Penang and Hong Kong in convoy O.N. 42, is reported to have sunk at 0715/12, 600' N.E. of St. John's N.F. after being on fire since 1700/11. All crew picked up. Cause of fire unknown, but sabotage is suspected. (D.O.R. 15/12).

S.C.60. — Designation 4.1.15, SAGUENAY (Senior) MIMOSA ACONITE ALYSEE DAUPHIN SPIKEHARD WETASKIWIN SHWDIACDMR (as received).
(Opnav 0300/15 to Admty.).

Shipping Colon. — Atlantic shipping still held up. Cristobal Naval Authorities very co-operative but cannot furnish explanation. Their instructions come from Admiral Commanding 15th Naval District Balboa.
(N.C.S.O. Colon 1001/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

/Position....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

Position "U".	Ref. A.M. 1223Z/13 to Opnav, request you will explain that position U is being promulgated as recommended in Opnav 0235/14 but original U was selected in order to give the usual run through M.C.M.P. on a steady course. (D.T.D. 1045A/15 to B.A.D.).
Gas Cargoes.	Reference to gas as a cargo should be avoided in Advance and Sailing telegrams. (D.T.D. 1046A/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax N.S. N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. Rep. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Leakage of ships' movements.	Your 1201/14 U.S. Authorities are taking necessary action at once. (B.A.D. 1108R/15 to C.in C. S.A. Rep. Admty.).
Midget S/M's.	Your 1845R/11. Request full details of Japanese midget submarine, in particular exact dimensions and whether fitted with any net cutting device. (D.of L.D. 1222A/15 to B.A.D.).
S.C.58.	S.C. 58 scattered 8 mile HERATIO and MOOSEJAW in company with Commodore. At 1400Z Commodore estimated p.c. and s 58.21 27.35 066° 7.8 altering course to 086° at 1700Z. ST LAURENT p.c.s. 58.35 28.40 320° 4 intend proceeding to M.C.M.P. if weather moderates. Weather report. (Opnav 1300/15 to Admty.).
U.S.Situation Report.	Washops 5. (1) Philippine Islands. Message from Gen. Macarthur received 14/12 states Japanese held areas Appari, Legaspi, and Vigan are expanding. 2 bombing attacks during day heaviest on Neilson air port, Nichols Field, Fort Stotsenburg, Olongapo, Baguio and Clark Field, 4 Japanese aircraft shot down. Perceptible weakening in accuracy of Japanese bombing observed. Weather conditions prevented air counter attacks on Legaspi but a successful attack was made on Vigan. (2) Hawaii. C.in C. Pacific Fleet reports 4 submarines were sighted by aircraft yesterday in Hawaiin waters; one believed was damaged. In addition one 50 feet submarine entered Pearl Harbour and was destroyed by depth charge. (3) Midway Is. and Wake. These islands are still in U.S. hands. Wake reports two further bombing attacks and states one attack was carried out by 4 engined seaplanes. (4) U.S. Atlantic Coast. Various reports of doubtful submarine contacts have been received from the Atlantic Sea Board between New York and Florida. (J.S.M. Washington 1335R/15 to Admty. etc.).

EYEBRIGHT.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

EYEBRIGHT
BITTERSWEET. — Completion date of EYEBRIGHT is 10th January ex trials. Request approx. date of arrival of BITTERSWEET at Charleston.
(B.A.R.M. 1410R/15 to Admty. C.C.N.F. etc.).

Suspicious Tanker. — Your 1320A/12. ONDINA reports her position at noon GCT/9th as 31-30 N. 71-16 W. course 17°. Dutch CISTULA reports that about 1½ hours after daylight on 9/12 in position 34.39 N. 70-39 W. unidentified tanker heavily laden flying small unidentified flag approached and circled her at about one half mile distance. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1503Z/15 to Admy. rep. Opnav. N.S.H.Q. C.in C.A.W.I.

Tarawa — Hawaii appreciation dated 15/12 repeated C.in C. Pacific, C.in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and Manila. (Begins) A study of addresses in radio traffic indicates Japanese have established an air base in Gilbert Island. The Yokohama air group is now there. (Ends).
Navy Dept. Comment. (Begins). The island mentioned is probably Tarawa which was occupied by Japanese on 11/12. The Yokohama air group came down from Mandates. (Ends).(B.A.D. 1531R/15 to Admty. etc.).
N.I.D. Comment. High Commissioner, Western Pacific has reported Japanese have left Tarawa but are probably returning. No air base apparently exists yet, but it may be intended to establish one. Yokohama air group suggests flying boats.

S.C.Convoys. — When S.C. Convoy assembly changes to Halifax adjustment will be desirable in date of sailing in order that H.X. and S.C. convoys shall not sail on the same day. Request you will suggest date of first S.C. from Halifax in order that adjustment in escort arrangements may be recommended to Opnav. (D.T.D. 1544A/15 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

TULIP — Sailed TULIP routed by N.O.I.C. Kingston through position:- E. 011° 00' N. 048° 58' W. F. 010° 58' N. 038° 02' W. G. 007° 01' N. 025° 59' W. H. 004° 31' N. 016° 30' W. thence to Freetown. E.T.A. 26/12.(N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1602Z/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Ballast in ships. — C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1602Z/13. (Re. extra ballast for better convoying). I consider that some serious consideration should be given to this matter and that no ship should sail with her propeller showing out of water.
(C.in C. W.A. 1639A/15 to Admty.).

/H.X. 163.....

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America and West Indies. -Contd.

H.X.163. In view of uncertainty of position should be grateful if United States escort would report situation. (D.T.D. 1705Z/15 to Opnav).

DEVONSHIRE. My 1750/2. Request DEVONSHIRE be informed that when she visits Norfolk, position for meeting pilot is now 4 miles E. of Cape Henry at 0800 zone 5 time.
(B.A.R.M. 1722R/15 to Admty.).

Coastwise shipping. Commence routeing U.S. and U.S. owned and controlled coastwise merchant ships 1000 tons and over. Instruct overseas and coastwise shipping to carry out instructions for Naval transportation and U.S. Merchant vessels in time of war part one, and provisions of C.S.P.N.I.N.E. 37. Darken ship at all times.
(Opnav 1725/15 to C.N.A.N.C.F. C.S.U.C.F. C.P.N.C.F. Rep. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.P.S.N.C.F. C.P.N.N.C.F.).

C.A.M. ship A/C failure. Your 1625A/29/11. (Report if C.A.M. ship arrives at Halifax with aircraft or catapult out of action.). EMPIRE LAWRENCE. Aircraft not launched Halifax 13/12. Unable to start motor due to low temperature at the time scheduled to be launched.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1905Z/15 to Admty.).

COLONIAL. My 1957Z/13 (N.T. in W.R.). Portuguese COLONIAL has asked for assistance engine damaged position 3905 N. 60.07 W.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1913Z/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

Merchant shipping movements cabled in P.L. C.in C. South Atlantic's 1201/14 request you inform me what action can be taken and whether any assistance at the West African end is required to enforce this essential censorship.
(D.N.I. 1918A/15 to B.A.D.). See also 1103/15.

Dispositions. B.A.D. Washington's 1221R/11 (N.T. in W.D.). para 5 and 2231R/14. Comply.
(D.of P. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 1919A/15 to C.in C. A.W.I. Rep. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

M.N. Code for U.S. ships. My 1935/13 1000 copies of S.P. 02404 R/T for Merchant Navy Code are being obtained from Ottawa who are in the act of reproducing it. Also 100 copies of Merchant Navy Code.
(B.A.D. 1921R/15 to Admty.).

INDOMITABLE.....

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America and West Indies. -Contd.

INDOMITABLE.	Your 1112Q/13. S. of A. to Durban direct would be 15 knots. Propose to fuel Simonstown which would allow S.of A. 17 knots thus for and higher speed thereafter. (INDOMITABLE 1931Q/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
SURCOUF.	Unless orders are received to the contrary Adm. Muselier intends to hold SURCOUF for few days for foreseen operation which is depending on issue of discussion in Ottawa and Washington. (C.N.S. Canada 2029Z/15 to Admty. Rep. C.O.A.C.).
MAYFLOWER	Being sailed p.m./16 to arrive Halifax a.m./18. Discharge certain ratings on leave and then proceed so as to arrive Charleston at 2000Z zone 5 sea buoy 2C on 22/12. (C.C.N.F. 2040Z/15 to C.O.A.C. rep. B.A.R.M. etc.)
Shipping routes.	My 1307/9 para. 2. In future C.N.O. will indicate to C.in C. A.W.I. in addition to change in routeing instructions he recommends in respect of area of U.S. responsibility. (B.A.D. 2141R/15 to Admty.).
Newfoundland Escort Force.	Your 2049Z/24. Arduous conditions under which N.F.E.F. are carrying out their valuable service are appreciated and we much regret that strain is proving too severe. (2) Ref. recommendation A we agree and have asked B.A.D. to obtain Opnav's concurrence. (3) Regretted that extension of area of U/boat operations and other new commitments arising out of Far East situation do not permit reinforcements to be sent. It is considered, howveer, that whilst the U/boat menace in N. Atlantic remains small a reduction in the number of escorts to an average of 5 can be accepted. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2210A/15 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa Rep. C.in C. W.A. C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F.).
ROODE ZEE towing operation.	Sparks has suggested that ROODE ZEE should tow a floating crane from New York to Middle East. It is expected tow would be ready to commence voyage in four to six weeks time. Request you will obtain necessary details from Sparks and after consultation with Master signal your remarks on practicability of this operation and proposed route. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2308A/15 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
Convoy route.	My 1119A/6. We appreciate difficulty at present time of launching any new scheme but persistent bad weather makes it a matter of urgency that S.C. O.N. (S) convoys should be given a more southerly route. Is it possible as a

/temporary.....

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America and West Indies.

Convoy Route. -Contd.

temporary measure to obtain C.N.O's. aggreement to Canadian escorts proceeding to Londonderry instead of Iceland (C)? This would be without prejudice to any remarks he might wish to make on the scheme proposed in the above message. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2309A/15 to B.A.D.).

Australia and New Zealand.

Fiji lights.

W.M. 13. All ships are warned that all lights in Fiji Islands are liable to be extinguished without further notice. (S.O.I. Wellington 0946M/15 to all W/M Addressees).

FALKEFJELL (Norwegian).

R.A.N. requisitioned fleet tanker FALKEFJELL left Sydney 0659Z/14 for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B. 1027Z/15 to Admty. etc.).

Tarawa and Ocean Islands.

Your telegram No. 329. Japanese reported to have left Tarawa Wednesday night, and informed natives returning 18/12 to occupy the Island. Auxiliary vessel HELENA not destroyed, but taken away with crew by the Japanese. Doctor Steenson released.

Bevington (D.O.) absent Tarawa on board S.S. KIAKIA which vessel hoped to be on way to Suva. Roman Catholic Mission Vessel TERESIA has arrived Beru on way to Suva. No planes over Ocean Island Saturday. Islands south of Tarawa appear still to be clear Japanese but single planes reported over Maiana, Tarawa, and Abaiang. (High Commissioner Western Pacific 1312/15 to S. of S. for Colonies.)

LEANDER

Departure Auckland LEANDER on escort duty to Suva. (D.N.I. Wellington 1644M/15 to Admty. etc.).

Shipping routes.

Ref. A.M. 1915A/13.
Suggested vessels bound for ports beyond New Zealand having sufficient speed and endurance be routed south of New Zealand to their destinations or to ports to which their endurance can take them. This would avoid congestion in Wellington and local areas in the vicinity and save time on passage. In event of emergencies in Australian and New Zealand area these vessels would be diverted as required. (N.Z.N.B. 1725M/15 to Admty.).
Your 1725M/15 (re routeing of vessels south of New Zealand.) Concur. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2334A/15 to N.Z.N.B.).

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

H.M.S.GALATEA. Sunk. See Mediterranean.

EMPIRE BARRACUDA. Convoy attacked by submarine. EMPIRE BARRACUDA sunk. My position 035° 28' 006° 15' W.
(WISHART, 0348/15 to Gib., C. and C.O., (R) STORK.)
Have picked up 39 survivors, two cases require urgent medical attention, am returning to Gibraltar please send survivors clothes,E.T.A. 1000.
(COLTSFOOT 0529/15 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) WISHART.)
EMPIRE BARRACUDA on Government Service.
(D.S.832.)

BADALONA. Spanish Tanker BADALONA sunk by torpedo 8 miles off Motril 13/12. Report by CAMPSA, A.2.
Request immediate (? authority) stating no British submarines in vicinity.
(N.A.Madrid, 1340/15, to F.O.C.N.A. (R) C. in C. Med.) Reply: No British. S/M in vicinity (F.O.I.C. Gib., 0315/16.)
BADALONA bound from Valencia to Aruba.
(D.S. 833.)
BADALONA was torpedoed and sunk by S/M unidentified 8 miles off Motril at 9 a.m.13/12. Submarine Officer spoke French and gave crew 10 minutes to abandon ship. 2 torpedoes were then fired.
(Gibraltar (Originator not given) 1833/15, to S.O.I., Gib., (R) N.A.Madrid.)
At one hour 15/12 Minister of Navy telephoned Admiral in Charge of Naval Base to search for survivors of BADALONA in voyage from Barcelona for Venezuela and sunk Italian S/M between Malaya and Cadiz. Information graded A.
(Gibraltar, ? 1900/15, to S.O.I., Gib., (R) N.A. Madrid.)
My 1340/15, Officer of Tanker was summoned on board S/M (not yet clear whether German or Italian) and given 10 minutes to abandon ship in spite of all protests. Same source. A.2.
(N.A. Madrid, 2041/15, to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.) (Amended and amplified, 1242/16.)

SAINT DENIS. French Admty., convinced not sunk by British.
(N.A.Madrid 1737/15.) See North Atlantic.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0135. Aircraft reports 2nd S/M on the surface in position 196 Cape Trafalgar 25 at 0135 which submerged and altered course from 080° to 171°.
(Gibraltar 0145A/15 to Escorts H.G.76,WISHART, etc.)
Capt. (D) 14 hunting submarine in vicinity of position 270° Ras el Tin.
(F.O.15 C.S.0207Z/15, to Capt. D.7.)

0537. One submarine bearing 210° 24 miles course 110°.
(A/C U 0537/15 to Gibraltar W/T.)

0640. Aircraft report suspect submarine 222 Cape Trafalgar 31 at 0640.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0713A/15 to S.E.C.O.G. 76, AZALEA, WISHART, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, COLTSFOOT.)

0710 G.M.T. By D/F at 0710 G.M.T. German U-Boat in position about 46° N., 9.30 W. Probably inward bound.
(D.D.I.C. 0907A/15 to S/M's on patrol in Area A., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth.)

1053. Following has been read. One Submarine on surface 70° 5 miles course 155° position
37° N., 10° W., 23 S.
(A/C W.F.H., 1053/15.)
Following received:- Addressed Gibraltar W/T. 1 Submarine bearing 070°, 5 miles my position 155 37° N., 10° W., 23 based on estimated position.
(NESTOR, 1053A/15.)

1000. Aircraft report submarine on surface position 035° 38' 003° 00' W., at 1000/15 steering 290°
(F.O.C.N.A., 1236A/15, to URSULA.)
(?Aircraft) report submarine surfaced and dived again in 035° 30' 003° 12' W., at 1050/15.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1306A/15 to URSULA.)

1347. There is indication of a U-boat in vicinity of Reykjanes.
(A.C.I.C. 1347/15 to BROKE.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1426A/15, 1434A/15.)

/0900N.....

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

0900N. Icelandic fisherman reports U-boat in 63.56 N., 22.42 W., at 0900N/15. Graded B.2. (A.C.I.C. 1501N/15 to Admty.)

1102B. 1119. Air r/c sighted one submarine 36° 42' N., 18° 50' E., course 130° 9 knots at 1102 B, and one submarine 36° 19' N., 18° 001' E., course 115° 9 knots at 1119. Both on the surface. (V.A.Malta, 1544B/15, to C. in C. Med.(R) Capt. S.1.)

1600. 2 S/Ms. reported in 32° 05' N., 24° 20' E., at 1600/15 proceeding east. (C. in C. Med. 1834B/15, to Med. Fleet, Force I.)

0730B. One U-boat diving in position 9 (?037°) 03' N., 017° 30' E., at 0730B/15. (P.34 1900B/15 to V.A.Malta.)

1820N. Enemy S/M suspected in position 130° Reykjanes 45 miles at 1820 N. (Liverpool, 1933N/15, to A.I.G. 54.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C 14/12. My 2325A/14 amend to read 189° Cape Trafalgar 61. (F.O.C.N.A., 0709A/15 to Ships Escorting Convoy O.G.76 ZULU, FORTUNE, GERANIUM, WISHART, SPIREA, COLTSFOOT.)

Use of A.S.V. Swordfish. 1. Effectiveness of A.S.V. Swordfish for work in Straits definitely established last night during passage of H.G.76 4 possibly 5 contacts resulting in 3 attacks. 2. Receipt of stores mentioned in my 1239A/2 and 1140A/6 most urgent.3 Request notification of date of despatch (? required for) 973. (F.O.C.N.A. 1140A/15 to Admiralty, S.O. Force "H", ARGUS.)
Further to my 1140A/15, most desirable to maintain present scale of effort with Swordfish A/S Patrols. This entails a minimum of 7 3½ hour sorties nightly requiring highest degree of concentration by air crew throughout.
(2) Urgently require 4 additional fully trained night flying crews and 3 additional fitters of D/F. (3) Request above may be flown out, air crew bring flying clothing.

/(4) Up ...

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Use of A.S.V. Swordfish. (Contd.)

(4) Up to date these patrols have been provided solely by ARGUS involving heavy drain on her flying resources. Proposals for putting this on a permanent basis follow by letter. (F.O.C.N.A., 1814A/15 to Admty.)
Your 1140A/15, para. 1. Were attacks carried out visually and if so at what range was U-boat sighted? If attacks were "blind", request details of technique used.
(D.N.A.D. 2145A/15 to F.O.C.N.A.) Reply, 1658A/16.

By A/C.

15/1200 Summary. (1) F.A.A. Swordfish A.S.V. A/S search 1830/14 - 0930/15 area 15 miles radius of Spartel. U-boat attacked at 0540 in position 310 Trafalgar 34 miles.
(200 Group 1710/15.)

Sightings and Attacks. N. Atlantic.

At 2325/14, 196° Cape Trafalgar 26 miles, Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface after ASV contact. Attack with depth charges near miss ahead. 2. At 0135/15, 225° Cape Spartel 14 miles, after A.S.V. contact same Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface. No depth charges left. 3. S.S.EMPIRE BARRACUDA torpedoed in 35.28 N., 06.15 W., at 0348/15.
4. At 0537/15, 310° Cape Trafalgar 34 miles, Swordfish sighted U-boat on surface. Attacked with depth charges. No hits.
5. At 1055/15, in 37° N., 10° W., NESTOR sighted U-boat bearing 070° 5 miles. ✱
6. At 1000/15, Maryland aircraft sighted U-boat in 35.38 N., 03.00 W., course 290° speed 12 knots
7. At 1058/15 Maryland aircraft sighted U-boat in 35.23 N., 03.04 W., course 270° speed 12 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2332A/15, to Admty.(R) C. in C.Med.
✱ Was attacked at 1114/15, and believed destroyed, see NESTOR 1430A/16.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Agreement has been reached with U.S. Navy Dept. that U.S. flag ships and U.S. controlled ships should be treated as British and Allied ships for routeing, inclusion in convoys &c.

Home Commands.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C of Brest at 1200 today shows GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST in their usual docks and PRINZ EUGEN alongside the Torpedo Boat station.

Enemy coastal batteries fired 14 rounds between 1814 and 1850 whilst C.W.61 was passing Dover. No damage or casualties are reported.

ILLUSTRIOUS collided with FORMIDABLE about 0020 today in bad weather. Both ships are damaged and have also heavy damage. ILLUSTRIOUS will require 3 to 4 weeks for repairs and FORMIDABLE, whose fighting efficiency is unimpaired will require 2 to 3 weeks.

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Brest and Ostend last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Attacks which caused no damage or casualties were made today on trawlers off the Faeroes and off Peterhead and a collier in Skaale Fiord. Slight naval damage was caused at Dover this evening. Dutch motor coaster ZEELAND was slightly damaged near St. Govans L.V.

MOST SECRET.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

5 Hampdens laid mines last night in the Jade and Weser rivers.

Several mines were detonated off the Humber today. Minelaying by enemy aircraft between Flamborough Head and Lowestoft is suspected from 1745 to 2030 today.

Mediterranean.

21 Wellingtons attacked naval units at Taranto last night, air R/C yesterday (see 15/12) having shown a large number of naval units in port.

In accordance with Admty. 2330A/14, C. in C. Med. is sending SUTLEJ and JUMNA, sloops, and BATHURST and LISMORE, minesweepers, to join E. Indies Station, but he points out that this will finish the effective blockade of Jibuti as he is unable to send reinforcements from the Mediterranean.

At 1433B today R/C showed considerable enemy convoy activity commencing. SIKH, LEGION, MAORI and ISAAC SWEERS left Malta at 1100B. Force K. sailed at 1800. AJAX is out of action with defects.

Two enemy aircraft made a minelaying raid on Tobruk from 1820 to 1840 tonight and dropped 6 mines inside or near the harbour and 3 on shore on the south side of the harbour.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Air Reinforcements. A Wing H.Q. with 4 fighter squadrons and ancillary units in Convoy W.S.12 Z is being diverted to Karachi via Bombay to be at the disposal of C. in C. India. Middle East has been instructed to prepare to send 6 squadrons of Blenheim IV's, plus an air stores park and 1 repair and servicing unit, to India for Burma after "Crusader" is finished.

China.

Hong Kong. Enemy bombers today caused damage to Aberdeen Dock, M.L.08 and GATLING were burnt out. The target was THRACIAN (destroyer) in dock who had been damaged by grounding during the night 14/15 Dec. The ship had to be undocked and beached and dismantled.

Penang. Japanese have dropped a mine in Penang North Channel from an aircraft without parachute.

Malaya. Air R/C today showed 13 merchant vessels, including one of 15,000 tons at Sungei Patani and 20 ships at Kota Bharu. There were 40 aircraft at the latter place.

Borneo. The enemy have landed at Miri or to the northward of it. 13 warships, a tanker and a S/M are reported off Miri, and there are indications that transports are included in the force. D/F indicates Japanese units including C. in C. Second Fleet in the vicinity.

The Japanese flag was reported over Lutong, but this was unconfirmed at 1300 G.M.T. 1 warship was, however, reported off Lutong at 1335 G.M.T.

Wake. There was a further air raid last night by 33 bombers.

/Shipping ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Shipping.

C. in C. A.W.I. asks that steps should be taken to avoid a repetition of the recent hold up of shipping at Colon and Balboa which appears to have been done by the local U.S. Naval Authorities without reference to the Navy Department.
At 1647/16. Opnav directed Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier to clear ships for the Far East, Australia and New Zealand in accordance with previous routeing instructions as rapidly as possible, ships both over and under 15 knots.

Prior to the outbreak of war with Japan discussions were proceeding with U.S. authorities for agreement by which in event of war U.S. Naval authorities would be responsible for Trans-Pacific routeing of all merchant ships in consultation with N.Z.N.B. The agreement is not yet in force, but meanwhile C. in C. A.W.I. and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa are asked to conform to the wishes or recommendation of U.S. authorities regarding movements of shipping in that area.

S.S. HOEGH MERCHANT (Nor.) was sunk by internal explosion 29 miles from Cape Makapuu today. The master suspects sabotage.

Australia.

Tarawa.

Japanese have vacated Tarawa after destroying the W/T station and various buildings. The ships employed were apparently 2 A.M.Cs.

U-Boat Campaign.

SAINT DENIS.

Washington reports from U.S. Embassy at Vichy that SAINT DENIS was sunk by a German U-Boat and that Darlan has received an apology from the Germans.

MOST SECRET

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ANTHONY. ANTHONY is required for escort duty leaving U.K. about 7/1 and subsequently to join Force H.
2. On completion of refit request you will sail her for the Clyde.
(D.O.D. H., 1219A/16 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

EDINBURGH. For operational reasons it has now been decided not to refit EDINBURGH in U.S.A. at the end of the year.
(V.C.N.S., 2257A/16.)

Movements.

SWEETBRIAR. On reaching 059° 30' N. 013° W. SWEETBRIAR is to proceed Hvalfjord.
(ii) My 2311A/13. For THYME read SWEETBRIAR.
(C. in C. W.A., 0004A/16.)

HARRIER. On parting company with F.N.78 proceed to Aberdeen arriving before 1600/16. Sail from Aberdeen in company with SALAMANDER at 1900/16th for Scapa.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 0558/16 to HARRIER.)
Cancel my 0558/16. Proceed into Methil.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1026/16 to HARRIER.)
Proceed to Scapa passing May Island not before 1830/16. Fighter protection arranged.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1241/16 to HARRIER.)
HARRIER sailed 1730/16.
E.T.A. Scapa 0800/17.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 1851/16.)

MONTGOMERY, CHELSEA. My 1647A/12 and my 2150A/15. Do not sail MONTGOMERY, CHELSEA till new R/V is given.
(C. in C. W.A., 0946A/16 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

BOADICEA, NARCISSUS. As no S/M available Lough Foyle am proceeding Loch Ewe. NARCISSUS proceeding to Loch Ewe so as to arrive R/V a.m. tomorrow.
(BOADICEA, 1001/16.)

RUBIS. Your 1828A/15. Concur.
(C. in C. H.F., 1057A/16 to F.O.S.)

MONTROSE, WORCESTER. My 1024/16. Intend sailing 0930/17 to Scapa.
E.T.A. 1400/17.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1202/16.)

/BARCLOSE ...

MOST SECRET

0

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

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(C. in C. W.A., 0946A/16 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

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E.T.A. 1400/17.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1202/16.)

/BARCLOSE ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

BARCLOSE, BARFOAM, BARFORD. — Intend sailing BARCLOSE, BARFOAM, BARFORD from Lough Foyle at 1800A/16. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1000A/18. Request you will arrange for fuelling at Fayal when ships sail.
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 1208A/16.)

SUFFOLK. — Scapa arrival SUFFOLK.
(A.C.O.S., 1307/16.)

P.39. — My 1139A/14, para. 1. For 290° Bishops Rock 5.0 miles read 270° Wolf Rock 3.0 miles.
(Capt. S.3, 1402A/16 to F.O.S.)

SHEFFIELD. — SHEFFIELD sailed for Scapa.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1505C/16.)

LANCASTER, NEWARK (Escort for FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS) — Admty. 1936A/9 para. 5. LANCASTER and NEWARK detailed.
(R.A.M., 1602/16.)

VANQUISHER, WITCH, VOLUNTEER. — E.T.A. Position (B) 0930Z/18. WITCH and VOLUNTEER in company.
(VANQUISHER, 2014A/16 to ILLUSTRIOUS, FORMIDABLE.)

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. — (i) Cancel my 1030A/14. From 049° N. 006° W. you are to proceed Falmouth to refuel and disembark passengers and be prepared to sail a patrol in Bay of Biscay as soon as possible.
(ii) You are to R/V in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 0930/17 with escort arranged by C. in C. Plymouth.
(iii) You are not to close within 10 miles of Lizard Head before 0830/17.
(Capt. S.5, 0004A/16 to REGENT.)
My 1139A/14. Para. 1. JUNON and 0.21 will be in company.
Add new para. 2(A), thence JUNON and 0.21 as ordered by F.O.S.
(Capt. S.3, 0005A/16.)
Cancel my 1151A/13 and 1722A/13.
(Capt. S.3, 0006A/16.)
My 2342A/15.
(a) Object of S/Ms is to attack and then report enemy cruisers and battle cruisers. S/Ms are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is absolutely certain.
(b) When weather conditions permit S/Ms should patrol in an approx. N.E. and S.W. direction within 5 miles of their patrol position.
(F.O.S., 0117A/16.)

/Intend ...

MOST SECRET

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. (Contd.)

Intend to sail S/Ms and escorts from Rothesay to arrive 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at following times.

Submarines	Escort	Sail	Expected time of arrival.
H.28, H.33, OTWAY.	Z.5.	0700A/16	1400A/18
OBERON,	CUTTY	1000A/16	1700A/18
O.10, H.50.	SARK		
H.31, H.34	ALECTO	1900A/16	0200A/19
H.43, O.9	BREDA	0015A/17	0715A/19.

All vessels routed through searched channels to 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles, thence as directed by F.O.S. S. of A. of all vessels 8 knots.
F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection.
(Capt. S.7, 0226A/16.)
Sailed code word "Local".
(Capt. D. Londonderry, 0430A/16 to Capt. S.7.)
My 0226A/16. Sailed Z.5, OTWAY, H.28, H.33 delayed.
(Capt. S.7, 0701A/16.)
My 2211A/15. For Falmouth read Plymouth to embark torpedoes. REGENT is to proceed on surface at discretion during daylight 17/12.
(F.O.S., 1121A/16 to Capt. S.5.)
F.O.S. 1121A/16. Cancel my 2320A/15. Intend ordering REGENT to R/V end of Q Z S 278 not earlier than 0900A/17. Request Lizard Head Light as follows.
(Capt. S.5, 1330A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
Sailed P.39, JUNON, and O.21 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with S.3's 1139A/14 as amended by S.3's 0005A/16.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1708A/16.)
Lettered Routes A to J, both inclusive, between 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles and Bay of Biscay are established as follows. Details.
(F.O.S., 1736A/16.)
See Summaries Folder.
My 0226A/16. Sailed BOARHOUND, O.10, H.31, H.34 at 2130A/16. E.T.A. 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 0430A/19.
(Capt. S.7, 2146A/16.)

Operation "Anklet".

Admiralty's 1918/5. Intend sailing SCOTT for Scapa at 1730 today. E.T.A. point of arrival 0900 tomorrow.
(R.A.M., 1119/16 to A.C.O.S.)
My 1155/15. TIGRIS will keep watch on 3000 kc/s and not 4740 kc/s.
(A.C.O.S., 1257A/16.)
TIGRIS sailing escorted (? to) position 060° 52' (? North) 001° 02'30" W. then unescorted through positions (One) 063° N. 001° 00' E. (2) 066° N. 007° E. thence to patrol area North and East of position 2.
(A.C.O.S., 1402/16.)

/My 1155/15 ...

MOST SECRET

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Anklet". (Contd.)

My 1155/15. Sailed at 1358/16.
(A.C.O.S., 1452A/16.)
My 1534A/16. PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE returning with defect. PRINCE ALBERT and escort proceeding at 22 knots. E.T.A. 1100A/17.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1734A/16.)
Sailed SCOTT.
(N.O.I.C. Port Z.A. 1734/16.)

Denmark Strait Patrol.

BERWICK sails to relieve NORFOLK on patrol "White" after fuelling and transferring stores to CUMBERLAND. BERWICK reports intentions to F.O. 1st C.S. NORFOLK return Hvalfjord on relief.
(C. in C. H.F., 1202A/16.)
Expect arrive destination 1000Z tomorrow.
(BERWICK 1834Z/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Sweep in Northern Waters.

Your 1639/15. In view of recognition and enemy reporting complication it is essential Allied ships operating together should be in close company. Do not consider 8-inch cruisers suitable for inshore operation of this type. When 6-inch cruiser is available consider sweep would be valuable. Can procedure for withdrawing Soviet S/Ms be modified in future to decrease probability of enemy being warned by withdrawal Signals. It might be possible to restrict Area operations so that fewer S/Ms need to be withdrawn.
(C. in C. H.F., 1227A/16 to S.N.O. North Russia.)

Dover shelled.

Between 1814 and 1850 enemy Coastal Batteries fired 14 rounds during passage of C.W.61.
No damage or casualties reported.
(V.A. Dover, 2132A/16.)

4 Enemy M/Vs sunk.

Following Soviet successes.
K.23. On 26/11 in (?70°) 25' N. 21° 33' E. sank 800-tons vessel by gunfire. D.3 during patrol off Svaerholthavet torpedoed following ships. On 28/11 in 70° 54' N. 26° 15' E. Eastbound vessel 6000 tons escorted 2 trawlers. 3 torpedoes fired. On 5/12 in 70° 59' N. 26° 36' E. 1 vessel 10,000 tons Eastbound in convoy, escort included SLEIPNER class destroyer 4 torpedoes fired. On 6/12 in 71° N. 26° 40' E. 5,000-6,000 tons vessel resembling Norwegian ABRAHAM LINCOLN escorted 1 trawler Eastbound, 3 torpedoes fired.
All ships seen to sink.
(2) D.3 commanded Cdr. Bibeyev who took passage for a patrol in TIGRIS.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1821C/16.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Bombing Operations.

On day 15/12 no operations took place.
On night 15/16, thirteen A/C bombed Brest including 26 x 2000 lbs. bombs and 1 x 4000 lbs., and some bursts were seen.
15 A/C also bombed docks and shipping at Ostend.
(H.Q. B.C., 1400/16.)

Bombing restriction.

Operation H.J. Request bombing restriction between 005° and 007° W. from 047° to English Coast between 1800/16 and 0900/17.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1432/16 to H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

PUCKERIDGE (Damaged 13/12.)

Inspection of damage of PUCKERIDGE shows that the bomb probably penetrated into after magazine before exploding.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1523A/16.)

Faroes attacked.

1 enemy A/C attacked Faroes trawler off Trans-gisvaac at 1157 today. 2 bombs dropped. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 1725A/16)
One enemy aircraft dropped three bombs off Trangisvaag at 1220 today. Objective probably Faroese Whalers at anchor, but bombs fell harm-lessly on land. Collier in Skaale Fiord was attacked at 1236 from 7000 feet but both bombs fell wide. No casualties or damage from either attack. (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 2055A/16.)

Shetlands attacked.

Junkers 88 came in from West over Muckle Flugga, then south over Herma Ness, then round from S.W. over Skaw at 100 feet where one 1000 lb. bomb was dropped at 1325A/16 in a field near the camp. Bomb exploded. No damage. Station machine-gunned, very minor damage. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 2037/16.)

Dover bombed.

Aircraft dropped eight H.E. bombs and some incendiaries on Dover between 1726 and 1738 today. Four H.E. fell in the Harbour, remainder in the town. Slight naval damage by I.B.
(V.A. Dover, 2132A/16.)

FORFEIT.

At 1745/16 H.M.Trawler FORFEIT was attacked by A/C in 000° 3 miles Buchan Ness. No damage or casualties. Aircraft hit by L.G. fire. L.L.B. attack either two or four engined bomber, height about 50 feet, two bombs dropped about 20 yards from ship, which did not explode until well submerged. Help messages sent, fire opened before bombing or M.G. attack.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 2202/16.)

/Blarrick ....

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Blarrick Camp bombed.

Hostile planes in area dropped four H.E's at 1920 on Blarrick Camp. One hut demolished, 2 huts damaged.
(B) One Corporal slightly injured.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 2330/16.)

Mining.

Thames Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1110/16. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1431/16.)

WELSHMAN.

Sailed 1346 WELSHMAN.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1454/16.)

Sweep by 13th M/S. Flotilla.

Exploded 4 mines and lost 4 sweeps on 1st lap of 1st sweep. Line B.S. identified and longitude as charted, but latitude at least 1¼ miles to southward. Southerly extremity not yet established. Observed 9th M.F. sweep 5 mines but lost visual signal touch. Am returning to Harwich to save daylight to replenish with minesweeping gear.
(S.O. 13th M/S.F., 1505A/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

Clyde M/S Forces.

Your 1537A/9. Concur.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1513A/16.)

LL Trawlers for Yarmouth.

Submitted that, in view of shortage of LL Trawlers at Great Yarmouth, those allocated to this port should be sent direct without working up at Port Edgar.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1550A/16 to Admty.)

Off Aldborough.

Possible 2 mines dropped in about 052° 15'30" N. 001° 57'30" E. Correct recognition signals observed.
(GUILLEMOT, 1830A/16 and 1956A/16.)

Humber.

Following four magnetic mines detonated today by LL Trawlers. Details.
Also one acoustic mine as follows.
(F.O. Humber, 2051A/16 and 2320A/16.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C of Brest 1200/16 shows PRINZ EUGEN alongside Torpedo Boat Station. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST in usual docks.
(D.D.I.C., 1649A/16.)

/Enemy ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary. 16.12.1941. Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Enemy Ship.

Bearing by D/F at 1730Z/16 position of enemy type unknown was 069° 38' N. 036° 24' E. Unreliable fix.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2156C/16 to SHEFFIELD, C.S.18, Reptd. HAZARD.)

Navigational.

Ice in Baltic.

Ice report Baltic 15/12.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1619/16.)

Workington.

Cancel my 1201A/8/11. Owing to silting, draft of vessels for Workington must not exceed 13 feet at Spring Tide.
Dredging will recommence as soon as weather permits.
(F.O.IC. Liverpool, 1623A/16.)

Casualties and Defects.

NIDARDAL sunk.

NIDARDAL sinking deeper in the water engine room and tunnel full of water about to abandon ship. Position 56° 7' N. 21° W. at 1600 G.M.T./15th.
(NIDARDAL, 0148/16.)
Cancel my 0940Z. Ship settling fast, no hope of Salvage. Crew 25 safe aboard. Finished her with gunfire. Propose proceed Londonderry with ROSE to land survivors as cannot transfer.
(PICTOU, 1430Z/16.)
PICTOU's 1430Z/16. PICTOU proceeds to Reykjavik if conditions permit transferring survivors to ROSE before parting company. ROSE returns to Base.
(C. in C. W.A., 1820A/16 to PICTOU.)

Shipping and Convoys.

P.W.81.

Cancel my 1232/11.
(2) JULIET is to take HORATIO and LADY ROSEMARY under his orders. Pass gate at 0800/16th astern the sweeper and proceed R/V TYNEDALE escort P.W.81 estimated position 295° Eddystone 8 at 0900.
(3) On being relieved by group F trawlers, group D trawlers are to proceed Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 0516/16.)

/Convoys ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoys in Irish Sea. Your 1915A/15. Southbound convoys are not held back by Holyhead section. It is the Holyhead section that is frequently led back by the southbound convoys, which are late and make R/V at "X" impossible in daylight. Consider all difficulties would be eliminated if when occasion arises Holyhead section could be sailed independently as suggested in para. 3. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead, 1031A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q.6. SPEEDY, HAZARD sail to carry out A/S sweep in vicinity of Gorodetsky and R/V P.Q.6 to escort to Tersky Orlov.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1120C/16.)
P.Q.6. Your 1424A/15. Destination of ELONA is Molotovsk.
(D.T.D., 1222A/16 to C.S.18.)

LA NOUNE. Your 2119A/15. LA NOUNE is delayed by weather only.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1154/16.)

H.X.162. Average speed 8.3 knots. Convoy scattered night 1/2 December in whole gale and reformed later. Six stragglers, two of which joined S.C.57. All ships now arrived.
(D.T.D., 1430A/16 to Opnav.)

Orders for Escort Groups. My 2205A/30th November. Detailed arrangements..
(C. in C. W.A., 1625A/16.)

REINE DES FLOTS. SLUNA. Your 1246/16 not approved. Ships are to be sailed with a W.P.D. convoy.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1632/16.)

P.Q. Convoys. A.M. 1612A/15 para. (B). War Office requests that future sailing telegrams for P.Q. convoys should include notation against ships names whether they are ex U.S.A. or ex U.K. Request you will arrange accordingly.
(D.T.D., 1714A/16 to A.C.I.C.)

BATORY. S.S. BATORY 17 knots carrying 290 Service Personnel will be ready to leave Clyde for Gibraltar p.m./16/12.
Request you will sail ship as requisite.
(D.O.D. H., 1755A/16.)

/H.X. 162 ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X. 162. — Many congratulations on bringing safely to the U.K. the ships of your convoy H.X.162. (C. in C. W.A., 1825/16 to Commodore N.H. Gale, R.N.)

S.C. 58.
H.X.163. — Stragglers from S.C.58 and H.X.163 may be met during dark hours.
(C. in C. W.A., 1934A/16 to Escorts of C.N.46.)

D.S.18. — VERITY, WELLS arrived 2030.
(A.C.I.C., 2146N/16.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS

Raiders.

Analysis. Comment on recent encounters. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1618A/16 to Cs. in C. etc) See Lion Copy.

North Atlantic.

P.35. My position 043° N., 012° 41' ? W., course 163° speed on surface 8 knots, submerged 3 knots. (P.35, 0131A/16 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Capt. S.8).
My 1106A/14 para. 2. Amend onward route from present position passing through (R) 036° 45' 011° 45' at 0700A/18 thence direct to arrive 350° Spartel 5 at 1200A/20th. Diving by day 18th/19th. Bombing restrictions arranged. (F.O.C.N.A., 1108A/16 to P.35).

MANXMAN. Arrived. (F.O.C.N.A., 0202A/16 to Admty, C. in C. W.A. R.A.(M) N.O.I.C., Milford Haven).
My 1709A/15. Report expected time of sailing. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1154A/16 to F.O.C.N.A., (R)MANXMAN)
Admty. 1709A/15. Intend to sail MANXMAN at 1900 A/17 route (a) (?035°) 30' N., 010° 00' W., (b) 36.00 N., 12.00 W., (c) 39.00 N., 15.00 W. (d) 45.00 N., 15.00 W. MANXMAN will proceed at best speed weather permitting probable S.O.A. 23 knots.
2. Request C. in C. W.A. issue onward route from position (d).
(F.O.C.N.A., 1848A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

URSULA. Leave patrol forthwith and return to Gibraltar through 035° 55' 004° 00' and 035° 55' 005° 00' thence direct report E.T.A. T.B.R. arranged for. (F.O.C.N.A., 0236A/16 to URSULA, (R) OLYMPUS).
E.T.A. 1530/16. (URSULA, 0502A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Arrival URSULA. (F.O.C.N.A., 1720A/16 to Admty).
Admty 2329A/15. and F.O.S. 2342A/15.
A. Request URSULA may be ordered to proceed through 43° N., 11° 43' W., thence submerged by day to patrol in position 13. B. Disposition of other submarines will be signalled to URSULA in due course.
C. Request URSULA may be instructed to keep W/T Watch in accordance with A.F.O. "S" 2 table 2 (3) from time of leaving Gibraltar and also that departure signal may indicate whether she holds information contained in F.O.S.1736A/16.
(F.O.S., 1817A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 2329A/15. Intend to sail URSULA 0800/17. URSULA will pass through 043° 00' 011° 30' W. about 0100/20, shift W/T watch at that time.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1823A/16 to Admty).

/SEVERN...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

SEVERN, CLYDE. SEVERN and CLYDE are to be brought to short notice for special operation. Further instructions will follow. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1237/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1237/16. CLYDE at short notice. SEVERN in dock repairing engine and fuel leak. SEVERN will not be ready before p.m./18 when 50% fuel capacity will still be out of action.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1610A/16 to Admty).
A.T.1237/16. SEVERN and CLYDE are to remain at Gibraltar at convenient notice.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 1736A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)

ALOUETTE. Departure H.M.T.ALOUETTE for Y.3.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1342A/16 to Admty).

German A/C. German seaplane patrolling off Sagres 0930/16th.
(N.A. Lisbon, 1455/16 to Admty).

Destroyers, P. Delgada. Departure from Ponta Delgada VANQUISHER, 1500, VOLUNTEER, WITCH, 1815, arrived HIGHLANDER 1530, HARVESTER, LIGHTNING 1900. All times G.M.T.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1720/16).

FARADAY etc. for Freetown. Weather permitting intend sailing FARADAY, SAN ZEFERINO, BERGA to Freetown Saturday 20/12 escorted by 3 trawlers. COWSLIP towing M/L 244 to sail later overtake and provide escort for last part of passage. (F.O.C.N.A., 1828A/16 to Admty) Reply: 2156/17.

South Atlantic.

BIRMINGHAM. B.N.A. Buenos Aires 15352/15 (N.T. in W.D.).
Could visit Loango in BIRMINGHAM Monday 22/12 for 48 hours. Please signal if this date is convenient to H.M. Ambassador and Minister when official request will be made.
(R.A.S.A.D., 0921Z/16 to S.O.(I) Montevideo).

Overdue Shipping. STEEL SCIENTIST and LOSMAR due South Africa ports about 12th not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 1009B/16, to Admty C.in C. S.A. etc).

/C.M.24...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

C.M.24. CORNWALL escorting convoy C.M.24 sailed. E.T.A. Aden 1200/23 S. of A. 20 knots routed in accordance with C. in C. East Indies, 0714Z/10. (N.L.O. Durban, 1018Z/16 to F.O.R.S., C. in C. S.A., Admty etc).

QUEEN MARY fuelling Capetown. Admty. 1809A/14 para. 3. Request your remarks and what patrols can be made available. (C. in C. S.A., 1104Z/16 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown, (R) Admty).

INDOMITABLE. C. in C. A.W.I. 11120/13, not to R.A.S.A.D. Onward route from position (a) 005° 00' N., 046° 00' W., through (b) 003° 40' S., 030° 20' W. (c) 023° 00' S., 022° 30' W., (d) 032° 30' S., 005° 00' E., (e) 038° 00' S., 017° 30' E., (f) 037° 00' S., 028° 00' E., (g) 033° 30' S., 031° 00' E., thence to Durban.
(ii) INDOMITABLE is to search as wide an area as possible with aircraft on passage without delaying time of arrival and having regard to serviceability of aircraft on arrival at Durban.
(C. in C. S.A., 1155Z/16 to INDOMITABLE).

U.S. Shipping. C. in C. South Atlantic 1243Z/14 (not to C. in C. East Indies) Agreement has been reached with U.S. Navy Dept. that U.S. Flag ships and U.S. controlled ships should be:-
(A) Supplied with C.Bs. and S.Ps. as for Allied Merchant ships. (B) Routed by British N.C.S.Os. when sailed from ports on your stations.
(C) Diverted by signal as requisite when in your areas by British Authorities. (D) Included in appropriate British convoys. (E) Instructed to read G.B.M.S. messages.
2. Admiralty will from time to time, inform you of any special routeing required by U.S. Naval Authorities in area of U.S. responsibility.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1846A/16 to C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. (R) F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Mediterranean.

AVON VALE. Your 2015/15. Return to Alexandria, detaching COCKER off Mersa Matruh to enter Harbour if weather permits. (Malta W/T, 0010B/16 to AVON VALE).

/FALK...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

FALK.	Your 0624/15 S.O. Force I 1858/12 and N.O.I.C. Alexandria 2355/15. Propose sailing FALK noon /16 through B to R/V ?(J) in position 032° 05' N. 025° 05' E., at 0400/17. (?Mersa Matruh, 0709B/16 to B.S.N.O. Tobruk). My 0709/16 FALK reports that he badly damaged dome on leaving harbour. Have ordered him to proceed to R/V. (S.O. Force I, Mersa Matruh, 1259B/16 to B.S.N.O. Tobruk).
Enemy Hospital Ship.	One hospital vessel AQUILSIA 33.05 N., 24.30 E. 320 11. (A/C duty B.203 Sq. 0930/16 to 201 Group, 11 Group)
YARRA.	Intended programme for YARRA. Transit Suez Canal 18/12. Leaves Suez 0400Z/19. Arrives Aden 0800Z/23. (R.A.(D) Med., 1058B/16 to C. in C. Med).
UPHOLDER, P.31, UNBEATEN.	Leave patrol at 2359B/17 returning to Malta UPHOLDER through 037° 30' 016° 05' and 035° 51' 015° 51' to arrive 0730B/19. P.31 through 039° 10' 017° 30' 037° 30' 016° 05' and 035° 51' 015° 15' same time following day. Anticipate UNBEATEN in approx. position 036° 24' 015° 48' at 1900B/18 E.T.A. Malta 0800B/19. Submarines encountered at night south of 036° 50' are not to be attacked. (Capt. S. 10., 1103B/16 to UPHOLDER, P.31 (Rep) S/Ms on Patrol etc).
CITY OF PARIS.	Required to move 1410 M.N.B.D.O. A.A.F. personnel from Suez to Colombo about 6/1. Request fitting for White troops may be placed on board for erection Suez. C. in C. E.I. requested advise if escort will be available ex Aden about 12/1. Date subject to confirmation G.H.Q. M.E.'s movement 1/114/63, 15/12 refers. (S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1124B/16 to S.S.T.O. India).
Blockade of Jibuti.	Ref. 2330A/14. Request you will comply with Para.3. (C. in C. Med., 1150B/16 to F.O. Red Sea)
Small Craft for East Indies.	Your 2330A/14. I am complying with para. 3. This will finish effective blockade of Jibuti as I am unable to send reinforcements from Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med., 1200B/16 to Admty).

/Proposed...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Proposed Campaign. Following from Chiefs of Staff No.214 to C. in C. Med., and M.E. Ref. Minister of State No.3929 Nocop. (N.T. in W.D.)
1. We agree that Middle East Joint Planning Staff should examine possibilities of proposed campaign.
2. There are no reasons of high policy which make study of this operation unnecessary. (1st S.L., 1218A/16 to C. in C. Med).

German Ships Valencia. Following from Consul Valencia:- German Shipping agents here are reported having said German ships will not be coming to Valencia in future. Said to be going on Italy Libya run. 1159/15. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1242/16 to S.O.(Is) Malta Alexandria.)

Enemy M/Vs. 6 Italian M/Vs. N.W. of Harbour, one large M/V in Harbour Mouth 1450. (A/C, D.O.7 Q 1410/16 to Med., A/C)

TRUANT. R/C shows considerable enemy convoy activity commencing. It will therefore be necessary for you to remain on patrol till p.m./19. (Capt. S.1. 1433B/16 to TRUANT).

Enemy Mines Navarin. Enemy minefield reported outside Navarin. Position and extent unknown. (Capt. S.1., 1431B/16 to TORBAY).

UNBEATEN P.31. Indication of Southern movement beginning dusk 16th. UNBEATEN on completion of withdrawal from area C as in my 1205B/15 remain on patrol in position M., 039° 17' 018° 00' until further orders. Aircraft R/C reports show you great importance of this operation. My 1103B/16, P.31 remain on patrol in position A until further orders. (Capt. S.10. 1537B/16 to S/Ms on Patrol)

Libya. Military Situation Report. (C. in C. M.E., 1710/16 2322/16 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

TALISMAN, THORN. Retire to N.W. on reverse of your present route and arrive sanctuary 0530B/17. THORN arrives from Eastward 1000B/17. Enemy S/Ms have been reported off Alexandria. (Capt. S.1., 1725B/16 to TALISMAN).

/A.T.4...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

A.T.4.

Convoy A.T.4. slow codeword "Loose". BANTRIA and GIBEL KEBIR escorted by HERO, AVON VALE and COCKER sailed 0900/17 through F.2100, A 0630 18, U 1230, N 1730, R 0400 19, S, 1130, Tobruk Boom 1215 19, speed 6 knots fighter protection required daylight hours 17th 18th and a.m. 19th. (R.A. Alexandria 1758/16 to S.O. Force I).

Air Operations.

Night 15/16th. 9 mark 2 Wellingtons and 12 mark 10 Wellingtons attacked Naval shipping Taranto. 1 aircraft returned engine trouble. 6 500 lb S.A.P. Augusta submarine base alternative target. Message in 2 parts. End of part 1. (H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1815/16).
Attack 1900 to 0010 hrs. Bombs in target ? area but owing effective smoke screen precise observation results impossible.
1740 to 0359 hrs. 6 alerts, 12 raiders, 6 crossed coast bombs land sea. 1 house damaged. No casualties. 16th. 2 alerts 0651 and 1540. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 1839/16).

M/Vs. from Malta.

Your 1237B/27/11 and V.A. Malta 1237B/1/12. In considering sailing of M/Vs. from Malta, SYDNEY STAR, AJAX and ROWALLAN CASTLE are available for your use in Alexandria-Malta convoys.
2. CLAN FERGUSON has cargo for U.K. and SYDNEY STAR is required to load in South America. They should be sailed by whichever route you consider best. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1844A/16 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta) A.M.1844A/16, para 1. For SYDNEY STAR read CITY OF CALCUTTA. (D.O.D. (F) 1715A/18)

S/Ms.

Eastern Med., S/M movements summary 76.

Submarine	Est. noon position 17/12	Est. noon position 18/12
PERSEUS	034° 08'	032° 32'
	025° 22'	027° 54'
PORPOISE.	035° 26'	033° 20'
	026° 24'	028° 10'.

TALISMAN expected Alexandria a.m./17 from N.W. THORN expect (?Alexandria) 1000B/17 from Port Said. (Capt. S.1., 1847B/16 to Med., Fleet).

Greek Policy.

Greek Govt., although not at war with Japan, have broken off relations with that country and have notified that ships of Greek Navy will be instructed to treat as hostile every ship which is regarded as hostile by Great Britain, the U.S. and their Allies. They will thus continue to conform with the general instructions issued to British Fleet. (Head of M., 1904A/16 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.I.)

/Malta...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Malta, Movements. Departures 16/12 SIKH, LEGION, MAORI, ISAAC SWEERS at 1100B and AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY at 1800B. (V.A. Malta, 1937B/16 to C. in C. Med).

Minesweeping Tobruk. Minesweeping Summary for week ending 14/12. 4 suspected minelaying raids. 2 parachute mines dropped in boom entrance of which 1 blue magnetic swept, 1 parachute mine dropped outside boom and 3 non-parachute mines in harbour. In addition 2 red magnetic and 2 acoustic mines swept, 1 counter mine ashore. (S.B.N.O. Tobruk, 2111B/16 to Admty).

Tobruk Raid and Minelaying. C.A.F.O. 587/40. Para. 4. (a) 1820 to 1840/16 cloud slight. (b) 2 aircraft. No moon. (c) Minelaying attack. (d) 2 mines with parachutes inside harbour north side. 1 mine with parachute in Boom entrance, 2 mines with parachute outside Boom in centre of searched channel, 1 mine with parachute off Tobruk point clear of searched Channel. 3 mines probably type C self detonated on shore south side harbour. (e) to (k) Nil. (S.B.N.O. Tobruk, 2129B/16 to Admty).

AJAX, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR, NEPTUNE. Your 1806B/16 AJAX out of action with defects. KANDAHAR and JAGUAR in dock. Intend sailing these destroyers with NEPTUNE at about 1500/17 R.A. Alexandria pass to 201 group. (V.A. Malta, 2301B/16 to C. in C. Med).

Contacts with Enemy Forces. Your 0850/15. (a) 004° 30' E. (b) Yes, for two hours from 1500 to 1700A/12. (c) No, fortuitous. (d) No. (V.A. Malta, 2332B/16 to S.O. Force H).

Air R/C. (1) A.M. R/C from Malta covers 2 Areas enclosed by following positions. Area 1. A 038° 30' N., 019° 20' E., B., 036° 30' 020° 00' C., 036° 30' 018° 20' D 038° 00' 018° 00'. Area 2. A 036° 20' 019° 00' *C., 035° 00' 020° 40' D., 035° 00' 019° 00'. (2) P.M. R/C depends on forenoon result. (3) Special Wellington will be sent for night shadowing. (V.A. Malta, 2350B/16, to F.O.15 C.S.)
*B. 036° 20', 020° 30'.

/Escort...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Escort for Soviet Tankers.

A.N.A. Istanbul's 1206/8. Soviet Embassy in London have asked that Soviet tankers should be convoyed between Rhodes and Cyprus. They have been informed that this question has been raised by Soviet N.A. in Angora and that the decision must rest with you. 2. It is appreciated that no protection can be provided until ships are clear of the Aegean and this has been stressed from the beginning (see A.T.1238/10/10). It is also realised that even then your other operational commitments may render the provision of surface escort impossible.
3. Request report so that a suitable reply to Soviet Embassy can be framed.
(Head of M., and A.C.N.S. (F), 2355A/16 to C. in C. Med).

Enemy Units. UNBEATEN.

Large number of destroyers, possibly heavy ships, P.C. and S. 039° 17' 018° 00' 160°, 14 knots. (UNBEATEN, 2358B/16 to Capt. S.10).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.A.11. Departure CALEDON escorting B.A.11.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 0118Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

S.S.EMPIRE SNOW. Cancel my 0346/13. Error in decyphering ship's name.
(S.O.I. Colombo 1140Z/16 to Admty.)

W.S.12 X.
1. Destination of W.S.12 X has been changed to Bombay.
2. ORIZABA is to be detached in vicinity of Mombasa to fuel and will then join Indian section of W.S.12 Z when it passes Mombasa. Report now if any other ships cannot reach Bombay without refuelling.
3. CERES is to R/V with W.S.12 X as arranged by you to escort ships requiring fuel to Mombasa.
4. From (corrupt group) position (D) equator (?046°) proceed direct to Bombay arranged by W.S.12 X.
5. Report E.T.A. Bombay through CERES.
6. Inform Commodore.
(C. in C. E.I. 1414Z/16 to DORSETSHIRE, CERES (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. East Africa and Zanzibar.)

E.I. Station Limits. 21027/C. Personal for C. O.S. from Wavell.
In altered circumstances under which Armindia is responsible for military and air defence of Burma, consider it essential that limits of Naval East Indies Station should revert to their original limits to include coast of Burma and Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
(C. in C. India, 1615/16 to W.O.(R) C. in C. E.I.)
W.D. Note.- This point is dealt with in C.O.S. No. (India) 4, see 1900/16, and 0010/18.

Control of Air Forces, Ceylon. 20965/G cipher 16/12. 019841. Consequent on our assumption responsibility defence Ceylon, consider we should also assume operational control air forces. Confirm.
(C. in C. India, 1840/16 to W.O.(R) C. in C. F.E., C. in C. E.I.)
Confirmed (1st S.L. 0009A/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Burma and Indian Ocean. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 4.
Ref. your 20790/G cypher 13/12 by paragraphs.
Para.3. Confirmed India to be responsible for air defence Burma. Wing H.Q. with 4 Fighter Squadrons and ancillary units in convoy W.S.12 Z being diverted to Karachi via Bombay to be placed at your disposal. Also Middle East has been instructed to prepare plans for sending 6 Squadrons of Blenheim IV's plus one air stores park and one repair and servicing unit to India for Burma after "Crusader" is finished.

/Para.4 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Burma and Indian Ocean - contd.

Para.4. C. in C., Eastern Fleet, is responsible for Eastern theatre, including Indian Ocean. (W.O., 1900/16 to C. in C. India.)

Air Forces, Burma.

1. I cannot agree to divide control over Air Forces in Burma but if C. in C. Far East will notify likely targets to A.O.C. every effort will be made to co-operate when bombers arrive. There are now only 4 available. We accept responsibility for administration.
2. Am not fully conversant with commitments undertaken by 204 Mission. Although initial instructions visualise co-operation with our forces holding Hong Kong, not clear how this could now materialise. Consider we must take over Mission but will keep you in touch with all matters of policy connected with Mission and should be glad of your views on these matters.
3. Will assume responsibility for plan of operations of R.A.F. bombers in China.
4. Discussions with Gen. Brett take place this week on co-operation of American Air Force from China.
(C. in C. India, 1935/16 to C. in C. Far East (R) W.O. etc.)

China.

HAREL DAWINS
RAVNAAS.

British, 1523 tons, Hong Kong to Singapore.
Norwegian, 4019 tons, Calcutta to San Francisco.
Both reported sunk by enemy action off island of Luzon on 10/12. Crews safe.
(D.S. 833.)

ANSHUN.

British, 3188 tons, Singapore to Hong Kong.
Damaged by bomb on 10/12 in Manila Harbour.
Chief Officer and 2 men killed, 2nd Officer and 3 Chinese women passengers injured.
(D.S.833.)

Malaya.

Military situation report 1630 G.M.T./15.
(H.Q., M.C., 0345/16 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

/Mine ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Mine, Penang. — Japanese have dropped mine in Penang North Channel from A/C without parachute. B.A. D. Washington pass to C. in C. Pacific Fleet. (Capt. O.S. Singapore 0331Z/16.)

China, Co-operation. — Interview with Generalissimo. (M.A. Chungking 0800/16 to C. in C. F.E., C. in C. India., G.O.C. Burma, W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Convoy W.S.12 Z. — I understand that reinforcements for M.E. and Irak are being diverted to Malaya or India. Mr. Duff Cooper informs me 18th (? Div.) and four fighter squadrons, anti-aircraft and anti-tank (? regiments) etc., are now being sent to Southern Area (presumably in W.S.12 Z.)
2. C. in C. E.F. considers reinforcements for Malaya should be sent by quickest safe route with minimum delay.
3. Can you tell me: (A) What ship in W.S.12 Z contains reinforcements which are now available for Malaya. (B) If approved for these ships to proceed from Cape to Singapore by quickest safe route instead of calling at India.
Troopers 57543 of 12/12 to Eastfar also refers.
(C. in C. E.F., 0811Z/16, to Admty.(R)
C. in C. E.I.)

K.12. — Netherlands Submarine K.12 arrived 16/12.
(S.O.(I) Singapore 1017Z/16.)

Japanese attack on Borneo. — Coast lookout reports 13 large warships and one oil tanker north of (?Miri). Confirmed by Dutch air R/C. Neither reports timed but presumed A.M. today Tuesday. D/F indicates Japanese units include C. in C. Second Fleet in vicinity. Japanese radio announces Japanese army landed in B. North Borneo at dawn today Tuesday.
(C. in C. E.F., 1037Z/16 to ? C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty.)
My 1037Z/16. There are indications that transports are included in enemy force reported off Miri. C.Z.M. has been informed.
(C. in C. E.F., 0231Z/16 to C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet, Admty.)

CAPETOWN. — My 1721A/12 para.2. Requirement of CAPETOWN should also be met if ship is nearing completion.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1346A/16 to C. in C. E.F.(R) C. in C. E.I.)

/Petrol ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Petrol from Balik Papan.

Every endeavour should be made to lift stock of 22,000 tons Aviation Spirit components from Balik Papan to suitable discharge ports in Sumatra, using any available empty tankers including coastal tankers. Dutch authorities should be impressed with vital necessity of destroying any of this spirit which cannot be lifted to prevent it falling into enemy hands.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 2013A/16 to C. in C. E.F.(R) R.A. Malaya.)

Hong Kong.

Sitrep up to 1900 hours local time 16/12. Both aerial bombing and artillery shelling on increased scale today and show high standard of accuracy on or near military objectives. 6 Army light bombers at 0030 hours G.M.T. dive bombed Shekko, Shaukiwan and Lyemud. No damage to military establishment or personnel. 17 aircraft probably naval bomber type 96 attacked early (?afternoon) (?Aberdeen) (17 bombs) Shaukiwan (1 bomb) where 150 (?civilian) casualties, Saiwan, Aberdeen (where 1 M.T.B. sunk) and Repulse bay. Some damage to Aberdeen Dock E.L.D.S. and casualties to naval personnel.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 2310/16 to C. in C. F.E., W.O. amended 0922/17.)

Oil Schemes.

Your 1037/16. Are you satisfied that the Dutch will put oil denial Schemes into effect in good time?
(V.C.N.S. 2356A/16 to C. in C. E.F.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

French Corvettes. — It is desired that the French Corvettes ALYSSE, ACONITE, MIMOSA should remain at Halifax pending further instructions. (V.C.N.S. 0008A/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax (R) N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F.)

S.C.60. — My 1308Z/13 and U.S. C.N.O. 0300/15. Delete MIMOSA. (C.C.N.F. 0134Z/16 to Admty. C.N.O. etc.)

Shipping, Canal Zone. — Have been most concerned at recent holdup of shipping at Colon and Balboa which appears to have been done by local U.S. Naval Authorities without reference to Navy Dept. vide your 2021R/14. It is believed that this action was taken as a result of reports of U-boats in Carribean. Could steps be taken to prevent a repetition of this and the vital necessity for maintaining flow of shipping once again emphasised?(C. in C. A.W.I. 1011Q/16 to B.A.D.) See 1647/16.

O.N.44. CHICOUTIMI. — Separated from 4.1.13 during violent weather of night 13th instant and since searching for O.N.44. Position at 1100Z/16 056° 32' N. 024° 47' W. course 235°, speed 10 knots, fuel remaining 64%. As O.N. 44 now reported dispersing request instructions. Weather report. (CHICOUTIMI, 1100Z/16 to U.S. C.N.O.)

VAR (French) — Have you any informtion of French Tanker VAR? Request immediate reply. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1114R/16 to La Guayra).

VAN KINSBERGEN. — Sailed in accordance with C. in C. A. and W.I. 1232Q/13. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1202Q/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

NEMOURS. INDIANA. (French) — Colon reports U.S. authorities have removed French crews from NEMOURS and INDIANA. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1214R/16 to Admty. etc.)

RESTIGOUCHE. — RESTIGOUCHE's 1205Z/14. Propose to carry out necessary repairs to RESTIGOUCHE on her arrival in Clyde. (D.O.D. (H) 1223/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Arrived Greenock 1530Z/16. Request information regarding date it is intended to refit RESTIGOUCHE in Canada so that extent of defects to be undertaken in U.K. may be determined. (RESTIGOUCHE 1801/16 to C.C.N.F.)

/Washington...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-Contd.

Washington Report.

Washops 6. (i) Philippine Is. Another battleship probably Japanese battleship HARUNA class, was attacked by B.17 aircraft on 14/12. 3 hits and one near miss are claimed and ship last observed on fire. Bombers also seriously damaged at least one transport at Legaspi. One bomber missing remainder going to Australia to refit. There were a few light air attacks yesterday, otherwise nothing to report.
(ii) Hawaii. 15/12 a Japanese submarine surfaced off Island Maui and fired several rounds into town Kahulvi. (? Kahulu);
(iii) Wake. This island has had further night raid, on 15/12 by 6 4 - engine seaplanes and on 16/12 by 33 bombers.
(iv) Johnson Island was bombarded by 2 surface vessels yesterday. (J.S.M. Washington 1331R/16 to Admty. etc.)

COLUMBIA repairs.

Ref. N.S.H.Q's 1340Z/17/10. (A) COLUMBIA (B) Halifax (C) 15/12 (D) 9/2/1942.
(C.O.A.C., Halifax, 1331Z/16 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

BENCLEUCH survivors.

NANAIMO arrived with survivors from British S.S. BENCLEUCH, ship burned out and sank in 53-10 N. 38-00 W. 11/12. Sabotage suspected. My 2315Z/16 with list of survivors follows. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1422Z/16, N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1901Z/16).
N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1901Z/16 not to C.O.A.C. Reported suspected sabotage should be investigated on arrival survivors. My 1422Z/16 refers. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2209Z/16 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

BITTERSWEET.

Can arrive Charleston about 5/1 if acceptable. (C.C.N.F. 1455Z/16 to B.A.R.M.)

Routeing of ships.

Your 1725M/15. U.S. authorities although agreeing in principle with your suggestion prefer for the present to route all U.S. Flag trans-Pacific shipping to Wellington for further instructions. By doing this they feel that closer control of their shipping can be exercised in a situation which is at present extremely obscure. (B.A.D. 1521R/16 to N.Z.N.B.)

/S.C.....

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

S.C. Convoy Bases. — Your 1544A/15. At present anticipate possible use Sydney until Mid-January. Suggest first S.C. from Halifax 17/1, (thence six day cycle) subject adjustment earlier or later as weather conditions allow. My 1525Z/16/11 also refers. (C.O.A.C. 1531Z/16 to Admty.)

S.C. 60. — My 1308Z/13 and U.S.C.N.O's 0300/15. Delete ACONITE and ALYSSE. Add CAMROSE. (C.C.N.F. 1539Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Newfoundland Escort Force. — Admty. 2210A/15, Para. 3. Take any action you consider necessary. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1546Z/16 to C.C.N.F. (R) C.O.A.C.)

U.S. Liaison. — My 1721Z/29. Regret that Second Officer suitable for Liaison with C. in C. U.S. Atlantic Fleet cannot now be provided from Canadian sources for at least 12 months. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1604Z/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

My 2005/5 (N.T. in W.D.) effective 0000 G.C.T. 17/12. (Opnav 1620/16 to Com. Task for 4. Rep. Com. Task Groups 4.6 and 7.5. N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C. C.C.N.F. Cinclant, Admty.)

St. Lucia. — My 1115Q/13 your 1152Q/12. General position much improved. U.S. heavy forces withdrawn. U.S. Destroyers BARNEY, BLAKELEY only on patrol. Aid to navigation being relit tonight. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1640Q/16 to Admty.)

Shipping. — Desire you clear ships for Far East, Australia and New Zealand in accordance with previous routeing instructions as rapidly as possible. This includes ships both over and under 15 knots. Information from other sources received here indicates ships are still being held. (Opnav, 1647/16 to Comdr. Panama Naval Coastal Frontier).

U.S. Forces. — Spenavo 1506/10. Disposition U.S. Forces 15/12. (Opnav, 1655/16 to Admty.) See Lion Copy. (Note. This Signal is repeated as Admty. 1636A/17 see Tiger copy).

/RANPURA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

RANPURA. — Local arrangements for entering. (B.A.R.M., 1720R/16 to Admty.)

Suspicious Warships. — Pan American Pilot reports sighting 5 unidentified Warships in 24° N. 16° 30' W. at 1200. G.C.T.B. (B.A.D. 1727R/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

Dakar Intelligence. — Dakar. 13/12 (A.2) 1. CARTHAGE, MONACO, SAINTE MAXIME departed for Casablanca.
2. Pro American ratings state that twice during November periscope of unknown submarine was sighted off Dakar. Same sources deny that JULES VERNE has refuelled U-boats. (B.A.D. 1731R/16 to Admty. etc.)

Casablanca Intelligence. — 1. Casablanca. 13/12. Access to port cannot now be had by American control Officers unless thoroughly investigated or escorted. (A.1.)
2. Source in Office of Maritime Commission states that all merchant shipping from Casablanca for Oran, Algiers or Marseilles will henceforth be convoyed. He believes all cargoes for Oran, Algiers and Marseilles when shown as phosphates or miscellaneous are contraband. (Ungraded).
3. Naval Officials confirm press report of sinking of SAINTE DENISE by British submarine. (W.D. Note - see 1841/16).
4. Departures 10/12 French THESEE with 3100 tons phosphates, Spanish MINA PIQUERA for Bilbao with 5530 tons phosphates; 12/12, French TLEMCEN believed for Oran with unknown cargo excepting transhipment of sugar from LEOPOLD L.D., Spanish SAC 2 for Valencia with 4850 tons phosphates, Portuguese NEREIDA for Setubal with 460 tons phosphates. Arrivals 12/12, Portuguese SANTA IRENE from Lisbon and Spanish SAC 9 from Barcelona, both in ballast. (A.2.)
(B.A.D. 1735R/16 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions Units for Task Force 3. — Your 1919A/15. Para. 5 of B.A.D. 1221/11 and paras. 1 and 2 of B.A.D. 2231R/14 are being complied with.
2. Request confirmation that further instructions will be given before para. (?3 and 4) of B.A.D. 2231R/14 is implemented.
3. Presume VAN KINSBERGEN will be included in Units which may be used to reinforce Task Force 3. (? C. in C. A.W.I., 1741Q/16 to Admty.)
W.D. Note:- No trace of 1221/11 and 2231/14 in W.D.

/SAINT.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

SAINT DENIS. U.S. Embassy at Vichy reports 14/12 that SAINT DENIS was sunk by a German U-boat and that Darlan states he had received a note of apology from Germans. (B.A.D. 1841 R/16 to Admty. etc.)

NEA HELLAS. Due Halifax 20/12 speed 14.5 knots has 268 Troops, 822 Prisoners on board. Assume she sails in H.X. 166 21/12 and request your decision if Air Force and civilian Personnel can be embarked at Halifax subject to restrictions in your 1936A/25/9. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1941Z/16 to Admty. etc.) Approved (D.O.D. H. 2304/17)

INDOMITABLE. INDOMITABLE's 1931Q/15, not to F.O.I.C. Simonstown. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. S.A. INDOMITABLE should fuel at Capetown not Simonstown. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1944A/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.).

Shipping Routes and Control. Your 1032Q/14. Prior to outbreak of war with Japan discussions were proceeding with U.S. Authorities for agreement by which in the event of war U.S. Naval Authorities would be responsible for Trans-Pacific routeing of all merchant ships in consultation with N.Z.N.B.
(2) Agreement is not yet in force but meanwhile it is requested that N.C.S.Os under your control and that of N.S.H.Q. Ottawa should conform to any wishes or recommendation of U.S. Authorities regarding movements of shipping in that area.
(3) My 1915A/13 was drafted in reply to N.S.H.Q's 0036Z/13 and should have been addressed to you as well as N.S.H.Q. It was not intended to imply any change in reponsibilities.
(4) In the near future it is expected that British N.C.S.O.'s at U.S. ports will be replaced by U.S. routeing officers, a British liaison Officer being retained where necessary. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2101A/16 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Following is repetition of message 2126Z/15 (N.T. in W.R) from N.S.H.Q. Addressed to British routeing authorities in Pacific Coast of U.S.A. and Canada. "U.S. Naval Frontier Commanders are issuing route instructions to U.S. Shipping on Pacific Coast of U.S.A. British and allied ships on Pacific Coast of U.S.A. and Canada are still being routed by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa through N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's subject to advice and recommendation of U.S. Authorities. C.S.A. San Francisco is acting as British Liaison Officer for both N.S.H.Q. and N.Z.N.B. with Commandant 12th Naval District. N.O.I.C. Esquimalt is issuing orders for shipping in Canadian Coastal waters. C.S.A. San Francisco is hereby authorised to issue direct to N.C.S.O's and C.S.A's Pacific Coast Canada and U.S.A. repeated N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. Washington and C. in C. A. and W.I.

/route.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Shipping Routes and Control - Contd.

route instructions for British and allied ships similar to those issued by U.S. Authorities if he considers such instructions are necessary to ensure the safety of British and Allied Shipping".
2. This arrangement is satisfactory to C.N.O. and is necessary for rapid promulgation of instructions originated by Commandant 12th Naval District. It is in addition to agreement reported in my 2141R/15. (B.A.D. 2107R/16 to Admty.)

Q.Z. messages.

Re reporting. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2214Z/16) Concur (D.T.D. 1328A/19).

Spain and Portugal.

Havana reports of expected Nazi invasion of Spain and Portugal. (B.A.D. 2335R/16).
See Lion Copy.

Disposition, Eastern Fleet, etc.

Your 1747R/13, not to C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
2. Estimated position of all British warships at sea East of Malay barrier and Australia is now included in daily signal to Opnav.
3. Present disposition is as follows:-
(A) Singapore Area. MAURITIUS, DRAGON, DURBAN. H.M.N.S. JAVA, ELECTRA, EMPRESS, ENCOUNTER, JUPITER, VAMPIRE, STRONGHOLD, TENEDOS, TEVIOT BANK and 7 Dutch Submarines. Due 17/12 SCOUT, THANET.
(B) Hong Kong Area. THRACIAN.
(C) Australian Waters. CANBERRA, PERTH, ADELAIDE, F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT. Returning from Indian Ocean, AUSTRALIA, HOBART.
(D) New Zealand Waters, ACHILLES, LEANDER.
(E) East Indies Station. REVENGE, ROYAL SOVEREIGN, DORSETSHIRE, CORNWALL, EXETER, GLASGOW, EMERALD, ENTERPRISE, DANAE, CALEDON, CERES, COLOMBO.
(F). N.E.I. Ships. Mainly in Java Sea.
4. Future intentions depend on development of situation which does not at present admit of reforming a powerful Eastern Fleet at Singapore.
5. We know little of U.S. Ships movements.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 2357A/16 to B.A.D. (R) A.C.N.B. C. in C. E.F.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Tarawa. My 1503Z/13. Air R/C revealed Japanese merchant ship 4000 tons off Kapingamarangi 0030Z/15. Japanese have vacated Tarawa after having destroyed W/T Station and various buildings. Ships which attacked Tarawa apparently comprised 2 armed merchant cruisers. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and C. in C. U.S. Pacific Fleet please pass to Command General U.S. F.F.E. Manila and Command General Hawaiian Department Honolulu respectively. (A.C.N.B., 0552Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT Your 2358A/13. LE TRIOMPHANT is escorting a small movement of 300 troops leaving Sydney for Noumea on Wednesday 17/12.
(2) On completion of this movement it is strongly recommended LE TRIOMPHANT be stationed in Pacific for the following reasons: (a) to stimulate Free French loyalty, (b) to assist in protection of ships victualling Free French dependencies, (c) protection of these dependencies in Pacific Ocean.
(3) No troops are available yet for reinforcing New Caledonia and in their absence French High Commissioner Pacific is obviously particularly anxious to have services of LE TRIOMPHANT.
(A.C.N.B. 0602Z/16 to Admty.)

ACHILLES. Arrival Auckland. (D.N.I. Wellington 1125M/16 to Admty. etc.)

CAP DES PALMES. A.T. 1621/30/11. Request you will not sail CAP DES PALMES for Singapore until ordered by C. in C. Eastern Fleet. (D.O.D. (F) 1226A/16 to A.C.N.B.)

CANBERRA. PERTH. Left Brisbane 1030Z/15 for patrol. (A.C.N.B., 1249Z/16 to Admty. C. in C. E.I. R.A. Malaya, C. in C. China, Capt. C/S Singapore).

Gilbert Is. area. (1) Japanese carried out Air R/C by seaplane as far south as Abmama Island on 14th, 15th and 16th. Grade B.2.
(2) 6000 tons vessel reported at Makin Island 14th. Grade C.2.
(3) Tarawa Island still clear of Japanese 16th. They removed Island Schooner and stores presumably to Makin.
(4) Consider it probable Japanese use Makin as advance seaplane base. (N.Z.N.B. 2207Z/16).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12. 1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BADALONA (Spanish) sunk.13/12.

Your 2252/14. Spanish ship torpedoed night 12/13. Request report name of Spanish vessel and any further details.
(Head of M. 0033A/16 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1340/15. No British submarine in the vicinity.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 0315/16 to N.A.Madrid.)
Your 0033A/16/12. Ship was Spanish tanker BADALONA. Consul Malaga's 1833/15 and Consul Cartagena's 1900/15 are being passed to you for information.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1134A/16 to Admty.)
My 2041/15. For evacuate read abandon. Ministry of Marine confirms tanker sunk 8 miles off Motril en route for Venezuela in ballast. S/M surfaced and ordered officer on board. All complement of submarine seen were not in uniform and without caps. Impossible establish nationality but (? believed) German. Officer accused in Spanish of communicating with Gibraltar. This he denied but was given 10 minutes to abandon ship when S/M sank her by torpedo. Affair has caused intense indignation but will not be published.
(N.A. Madrid, 1242/16 to Admty.(R)F.O.C.N.A.)
COLTSFOOT, HESPERUS and 37th Group now in company are to part company forthwith and return to Gibraltar at best speed. Corvette detailed in my 1421A/16 (N.T. in W.D.) to return direct on completion of rescue.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1540A/16, to STORK.)

ASHBY. (torpedoed 30/11.)

Your 1040Z/14. 32 survivors from ASHBY at Fayal reported ship torpedoed 1715 G.M.T./30/11. 170 miles S.S.E. Flores. SHEAFHOLME sailed Ponta Delgada for Cape Town 11/12. F.O.C.N.A.'s 1328A/10 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada repeated S.O.(I) Freetown refers.
(D.T.D. 1251A/16 to C. in C.S.A.)

SAINT DENIS.

See America & West Indies 1841R/16.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0745N. A.S.V. contact 062° 45' N., 018° 37' W., at 0745N/16. Possibly submarine.
(A.C.I.C. 1154N/16 to S and A. Icelandic Waters.)

1338. Two Submarines reported off El Amaid, investigate.
(201 Group 1338/16, to Aircraft of QUEEN ELIZABETH.)

Estimated approx. positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1424A/16.)

1710C. Russians report U-boats located by D/F in 069° 10' N., 037° 58' E.
(S.B.N.O., Archangel,1710C/16, to R.A. 18th C.S. S.O. M/S 1. (R) S.B.N.O. North Russia 126.

1725. Aircraft report submarine in 036° 00' N., 000° 57' (? W) at 1725/16.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2136A/16 to OLYMPUS.)

1442. (Med.) U-boat sighted at 1442/16 in 033° 15' N., 024° 32' E., steering 120° at 9 knots.
(C. in C. Med., 2223B/16, to Med. Fleet, Force I.)

Submarines Attacked.

By NESTOR 15/12. C.A.F.C. 834/41.
(a) NESTOR.
(b) 1114/15/12/41.
(c) 197° Cape St. Vincent 34.5.
(d) 5.
(e) Substantial evidence of destruction.
(NESTOR, 1430A/16, to F.O.C.N.A. Admty.)
My 2332A/15. Consider NESTOR undoubtedly destroyed German U-boat in 197° Cape St. Vincent 35 miles at 1100/15. Further report follows to Admiralty.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1640A/16 to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Med., V.A.Malta, S.O. Force "H".

/My 1643A/16.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 16.12.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By NESTOR 15/12. Contd.

My 1643A/16. (1640/16 intended.) NESTOR reports after sighting S/M at about 15000 yards A/S Contact was obtained and five pattern charge dropped. FOXHOUND then obtained contact but on run in lost it and D/C's were not fired. On passing over position of NESTOR'S attack, FOXHOUND heard and felt a very heavy explosion. CROOME then fired two pattern in same position as NESTOR on a firm contact. Following wreckage picked up in vicinity of attack.
A. Pieces of Human flesh in which were embedded pieces of battery separator plates and battery grids.
B. Sheepskin coat marked 'Fucher'.
C. Glove marked 'Hirtel'
D. A roll of toilet paper (unused)
E. Assorted pieces of grating and five-ply wood.
Consider NESTOR undoubtedly destroyed submarine.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1730A/16 to Admty.)

Use of A.S.V. Swordfish.

Your 2145A/15. In all attacks first contact was made by A/S vessel twice at 4½ and once at six miles. Actual attack carried out visually.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1658A/16 to Admty.)

By A/C.

A.771 16/12. "Opsum" (4) Sunderland A/S search East. 0800 to 1930. Area 03° W., to 01° W., between parallels 37° N., and 36° N., attacked U/Boat in 36° N.,00° 57' W., at 1725. Attacked with D/Cs, no hits estimated.
(200 Group, 1753/16.)

By A/C.

At 1720/16 in 036° 00' N., 001° 00' W., Sunderland at 500 feet sighted U-boat at about 7 miles. Attacked with 6 depth charges. Missed.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2300A/16 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

At 1840C today HAZARD and SPEEDY, while carrying out an A/S Patrol off Cape Gorodetsky, were attacked by enemy surface craft believed to be 2 Destroyers which maintained a high rate of fire with star shells and high explosive for 15 minutes. HAZARD and SPEEDY retired behind a smoke screen and separated; SPEEDY returning towards Murmansk with 2 casualties and some gunfire damage, and HAZARD returning at 2035C to Cape Gorodetsky to continue sweeping the searched channels. KENT with 2 Russian Destroyers sailed this evening from Kola Inlet with orders to intercept the enemy raiders or Destroyers concerned.

Photographic R/C of Brest at 1015 today shows no change in the positions of the Enemy Units; but a patrol of 13 S/Ms is ordered in the Bay of Biscay, where 9 should be in position on the 21st and 4 more on the 22nd.

BERWICK left Hvalfiord at 1700 to relieve NORFOLK on the Denmark Strait Patrol.

British Air Activity.

Wilhelmshaven, Ostend, Brest and Dunkirk were bombed last night.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy "Uphill" was attacked this morning off Clacton.

It is reported today that ROSEMARY was attacked at 1800A yesterday by two Heinkel 115 Floatplanes off St. Govans Light Vessel and drove off the attack; and at 1815A yesterday the small Dutch Coaster ZEELAND was also attacked off St. Govans Light Vessel, sustaining some damage from near misses.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

15 Hampdens laid mines last night off Brest.

Operation H.J.

WELSHMAN returned to Milford Haven at 1503 today from a minelaying operation off Brest.

3 Magnetic and 2 Acoustic Mines were exploded by sweepers today off the Humber Light Vessel.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected at Hvalfiord, and between Berwick and Yarmouth this evening. Blyth and the Tyne Ports were closed at 2145 tonight owing to suspected minelaying.

North Atlantic.

F.O.C.N.A. proposed yesterday to sail FARADAY, SAN ZEFERINO and BERGA to Freetown on Saturday escorted by 3 trawlers. In view of the U-boat situation west of Gibraltar and great value of FARADAY, Admty. consider these ships should not sail until a strong escort can be provided through the danger area.

South Atlantic.

Troop Convoys.

Revised disposal instructions for Convoy W.S.12 Z, from which certain reinforcements are being diverted to Singapore area, were sent today to P.S.T.O. Simonstown. In regard to the diversion of W.S.12 X, F.O.I.C. Simonstown points out that it is quite impracticable for W.S.12 X to be accepted at Durban at the same time as W.S.12 Z.

/Two ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - contd.

Two U.S. ships, WILD WOOD and EAST INDIAN are discharging material by lighters on the coast of Liberia for an air port in Liberia for the movement of U.S.A. aircraft to the Middle East.

Mediterranean.

An enemy force including 2 large vessels was reported by A/C at 0040B bearing 335° from AURORA 50'. (AURORA and PENELOPE with 2 destroyers left Malta at 1800/16 to R/V with BRECONSHIRE which is being escorted to Malta by C.S.15 in NAIAD with 8 destroyers.)

At 0825, 3 battleships, 7 destroyers were reported in 36.52' N., 20.8' E., steering 155° at 10 knots.

At 1006, a Blenheim aircraft reported 1 cruiser and 2 M/Vs in 35° N., 11.40 E., steering 000° at 10 knots.

At 1102B V.A. Malta proposed to sail Force B. (NEPTUNE, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR) at 1500B (the force sailed at 1532B) to reach 32.40 N., 16.06 E., at 2300B with Wellington co-operation and to sweep on N.E. course keeping south of 34° N., with the object of intercepting a Tripoli convoy. Torpedo bombers were to attack the merchant ships if the situation appeared suitable.

At 1545B, however, C. in C. Mediterranean cancelled this, and directed Force B. to cover BRECONSHIRE's passage to northward during the night.

C.S.15 was instructed that unless enemy battleships separated, or other good reason existed, he was not to seek out battleships but go for convoys, Force K. being detached to deal with the Tripoli convoy and C.S.15's force to go for the Benghazi ships. It was estimated the convoys would separate in approx. 34.55 N., 18.40 E., and proceed, the Benghazi convoy at 13 knots, and the Tripoli convoy at 16 knots. The battle fleet was expected to steer towards 33.00 N., 18.00 E.

/Force K ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - contd.

Force K. reported at 1543 that he had been subjected to numerous torpedo bomber and H.L.B. attacks and had brought down one T.B. A/C.

At 1122B, 3 battleships, 7 destroyers were reported in 36.22 N., 20.08 E., course 220°, 10 knots, and another force of 2 cruisers and 3 destroyers was estimated to be 8 miles ahead of the battle fleet.
At 1525B, 3 battleships, 2 cruisers, 10 destroyers and 4 M/Vs were reported in 35.47 N., 18.11 E., steering 140° at 12 knots. An hour later this force was reported in 35.35 N., 18.16 E. steering 180° at 12 knots, and shortly afterwards in 35.23 N., 18.33 E.

At 1745 C.S.15 (NAIAD, with AURORA, PENELOPE and 14 destroyers) unexpectedly sighted 2 battleships and light forces to N.W. in 33° 52' N. 18° 39' E. At 1755 the battleships opened fire but darkness intervened and at 1845 C.S.15 had lost contact with the enemy.
No report of action having been joined was apparently received in Admty., but at 1735 F.O. 15 C.S. signalled that the scale of attack had become heavy and expenditure of ammunition high. 10 minutes later he estimated his position as 33.52 N., 18.38 E. The enemy was on course 180°. A further enemy force was about 70 miles to northward.
C. in C. Mediterranean ordered at 1922B that BRECONSHIRE was to be sent to Malta, covered by such force as C.S.15 thought fit, the risk for her being accepted. Alexandria Force and Group 1 were instructed to carry out the purport of C. in C's 1545B/17, if possible, but to be east of 31° E. by daylight. Force K. was to return to Malta likewise.

12 Wellingtons attacked naval units at Taranto last night. 5 Naval aircraft attacked Catania Aerodrome.

MOST SECRET.

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SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

In response to a suggestion from Gen. Wavell that the limit of E.I. Station should include the coast of Burma and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, C. in C. E.I. considers the Far East situation is too fluid to allow of a specific alteration of station boundaries at this stage. He makes certain proposals re consultation.

C. in C. India in a telegram to War Office asks when Blenheim aircraft will arrive. Unless it is soon they may be too late. Japanese aircraft massed in Bangkok aerodrome could not be attacked as there were no bombers.

The defences of Nancowry are not to be proceeded with.

China.

Hong Kong. Most of the A.P.V's are immobilised through the desertion of their Chinese crews.

The Japanese naval and military commanders today again made proposals for surrender.

Malaya. Advanced H.Q. Malaya reports that it will no longer be possible to hold Penang. Withdrawal is proceeding.

In an appreciation today C. in C. F.E. emphasises that Singapore must not fall. The fall of Luzon would be distressing but not calamitous provided Singapore is held. The immediate need for Singapore is of submarines and destroyers. C. in C. Far East makes certain proposals for getting air reinforcements quickly, and suggests the Hurricane fighter wing in Convoy W.S.12 Z, now in Indian Ocean, be diverted to Java for aircraft erection.

G.H.Q. Far East, has been moved by C. in C. from the Naval Base to Combined Army and R.A.F. H.Q. near Singapore Town.

/Ships ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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SITUATION REPORT.

China - contd.

Ships are leaving Singapore independently as quickly as possible after being loaded with as much rubber, tin and sugar as time permits. All full tankers are clear of Malaya. Valuable ships are being routed via Sunda and ships of secondary importance via Malacca Strait.

C. in C. Far East thanks the Chiefs of Staff for all their promises of help but he points out that our ability to hold the Japanese may well depend upon the speed at which air reinforcements reach Malaya.

Borneo. British shipping has been withdrawn from British North Borneo. Air R/C showed one battleship or battle cruiser, one aircraft carrier, and 3 destroyers stationary at Miri and 3 cruisers 120 miles N.W. of Miri. Dutch bombers today located and attacked 2 cruisers, 2 transports and 2 destroyers in the Miri area and claim near misses on 1 cruiser and 2 transports, and a direct hit by a Dutch Naval Dornier on a destroyer. The bombers were attacked by Japanese fighters, probably from an unseen aircraft carrier.

In reply to Admty. inquiry, C. in C. E.F. has no reason to doubt the assurance of the Dutch regarding demolitions at the Dutch oil fields, which has been given him most definitely and would be in conformity with the full support they are giving us in other directions.

Landing in Timor. A Dutch protective force landed at Dilli in Portuguese Timor today, as a precautionary measure against Japanese occupation. The local Governor offered formal resistance.

America and West Indies.

A United States Naval Mission is flying to Martinique today from Washington under Rear-Adm. Horne to inspect ships etc., in accordance with recent agreement between Marshal Petain and Adm. Leahy.

/Instructions ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - contd.

Instructions have been given to N.C.S.Os West Coast of Canada and U.S.A. to route British and Allied other than U.S. ships South of New Zealand when endurance permits.

Australia.

LE TRIOMPHANT escorted 300 troops from Sydney for Noumea today. No troops are available for reinforcing New Caledonia.

1st Naval Member, A.C.N.B., in a message to 1st Sea Lord says :- We shall want all the carriers you can spare, and air squadrons will need to be very quick off mark to defeat Japanese technique, which seems to be efficient and very similar to ours. It remains to be seen whether U.S. carriers' technique will stand the test of war.
(Note.- Vice Adm. Sir Guy Royle, 1st N.M. was formerly 5th Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Air Services.)

U-Boat Campaign.

Martlet aircraft from AUDACITY sighted a U-boat on the surface at 0918 today, 22 miles on port beam of Convoy H.G.76.
STORK, BLANKNEY and EXMOOR searched for and destroyed the U-boat (U.131) at 1339B today in about 34.18 N., 13.58 W. and took 55 prisoners, who confirm that there is another U/B in vicinity. The Martlet was shot down and the pilot was lost.

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

9th, 13th 21st, and 22nd, M.T.B. Flotillas. — Composition and allocations. Details. (D.D.O.D. C. 1258A/17 to R.A.C.F.).

WESTCOTT for Gibraltar. — WESTCOTT is to be exchanged with CAMPBELTOWN the latter re-joining W.A. Command as soon as possible after relief by WESTCOTT.
(2) C.in C. Western Approaches is requested to sail WESTCOTT for Gibraltar as early as practicable.
(3) WESTCOTT is fitted with Hedgehog A/S mounting.
(D.O.D.(H), 2027A/17).

Co-operation with Russia.

SHUSA SHIKA (M/S Whalers). — Your 1931A/11/12. Russian Admiral requires following alterations tom be made (details). Questions of stability and fuel stowage are involved as explained to him but he wishes alterations carried out. SHUSA will be ready to sail for Greenock 22/12 and SHIKA 27/12 ex proposed alterations. Request immediate decision whether this extra work is to be completed at Aberdeen or at Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1628/17 to Admty.).

6

Movements.

Z.5. — You are to return to Rothesay on completion of present escort trip.
(Capt. S.7 0952A/17 to Z.5.).

MANXMAN. — Route for MANXMAN through Plymouth Command.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1026/17).

BERWICK. — Hvalfjord arrival. BERWICK.
(A.C.I.C. 1058N/17).

PRETORIA CASTLE. — PRETORIA CASTLE reports three oil purifier bowls not received. Request efforts be made to trace and despatch to S.O.W.P. Greenock to arrive not later than 21/12, otherwise ship cannot sail on 22/12 as arranged.
(S.O.W.P. 1230A/17 to Admty.).

AIGLON LORD GREY. — Sailed AIGLON, LORD GREY in accordance with Admty. 1933/26/8 amended by 1652/23/9 and C.in C. W.A. 1146/11. Approx. E.T.A. Fayal 31/12.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1234A/17).

/LEDA.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.- Contd.

LEDA. Expect to pass Bolshoi Oleni 0145C/18th speed 14 knots. E.T.A. Gorodetsky 18th.
(LEDA, 2331C/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, KENT, 1st M/S. F.)

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. P.C.S. 049° 10', 005° 37', 041°, 9. R/V 0920A.
(REGENT, 0001A/17.)
My 0226A/16. Sailed ALECTO. ALECTO intends to overtake BOARHOUND, O.10, H.31, H.34, and take over duty of escort to submarines a.m. today. BOARHOUND will return to Campbeltown on relief.
(Capt. S.7, 0031A/17.)
My 0226A/16. Sailed BREDA and H.43 at 0430A/17. O.9 delayed 48 hours by defects.
(Capt. S.7, 0431A/17.)
Capt. (S) 7 X 4/02. Have assumed duty of escort at 0715/17.
(ALECTO, 0716A/17.)
Arrived 1008 REGENT.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1033/17.)
F.O.S. 2341A/15. Sailed O.10 at 2100A/16. O.9 delayed 48 hours at Rothesay by defects. Z.5 sailed 0700/16 on escort duty, returning Rothesay on completion.
(Capt. S.7, 1146A/17.)
S.5's 1411A/16.
A. When REGENT is ready, request you will sail her for patrol in 47° 16' N. 6° 24' W., routed by route J between 48° 30' N. and Lat. 47° 30' N.
B. Request C.O. may be shown C.B. 040137 chart Z.74 before sailing.
(F.O.S., 1153A/17 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
(1) Intend to sail P.36 passing Needles at 1615/18 for patrol in accordance with F.O.(S) 0117A/16 during by day routed as follows to 49° N. 6° W. and thence as ordered by F.O.S. proceeding Gibraltar on completion.
(Capt. S.5, 1803A/16.)
A. On passing Wolf Rock S/Ms proceed submerged by day by lettered routes indicated, thence direct to patrol positionsas follows. Details.
B. S.B.R. arranged from 1200A/18 until further notice in areas 51 and 73 south of lat. 50° N., Area 56 west of 05° W., Area 75 east of 14° W., Areas, 52, 54, 76.
C. URSULA arrives in position 13 a.m./20th from south-westwards.
(F.O.S., 1906A/17 to S/Ms Area A.)
A. In the event of breakdown submarines proceeding to Bay of Biscay should normally return by their outward route as far as latitude 49° N. thence direct to Falmouth, reporting E.T.A. about 30 hours before arrival when possible.

/B. Should ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. (Contd.)

B. Should another submarine be proceeding outwards along the same route, the homeward submarine should transfer to the nearest unoccupied route. URSULA should proceed clear to the southward of position 14 thence by route J.
C. Submarines must bear in mind the probability of mutual encounters and must of course not be misled into assuming that a submarine encountered steering a north-easterly course is enemy.
(F.O.S., 1929A/17 to S/Ms Area A, URSULA.)
F.O.S. 2342A/15.
A. Submarines have been allocated to following patrol positions in Bay of Biscay.
B. H.50, 06; H.28, 07; H.33, 08; P.39, 09; OBERON, 10; OTWAY, 11; O.21, 12; JUNON, 14.
C. H.31, 02; H.43, 03; O.10, 04; H.34, 05.
D. URSULA, 13.
E. Submarines should arrive in their positions as follows. Para.D. 20/12; Para.B. 21/12; Para.C. 22/12.
(F.O.S., 1954A/17.)

Operation "Anklet".

Return to Scapa.
(A.C.O.S., 0006A/17 to TIGRIS.)
Scapa arrivals. 0952 SPEEDWELL from Greenock. 1004 SCOTT from Z.A. 1041 HARRIER from Rosyth. 1013 GUDRUN MAERSK escorted by ACANTHUS and EGLANTINE from Liverpool. 1055 KRAKOWIAK from Plymouth.
(A.C.O.S., 1201A/17.)
Scapa arrival TIGRIS escorted by STELLA PEGASI.
(A.C.O.S., 1527/17.)
Scapa arrivals. 1342 LAMERTON from Falmouth. 1655 PRINCE ALBERT and KUJAWIAK.
(A.C.O.S., 1801A/17.)

RUBIS Patrol.

F.O.S., 1828A/15. For 20/12 read 21/12.
(F.O.S., 1133A/17 to Capt. S.9.)
My 1828A/15 and C. in C. H.F. 1057A/16.
Object on passage to patrol and while on patrol to attack and then report enemy cruisers and above and to attack U-Boats. Object on return passage in accordance with F.S.B. two.
(F.O.S., 1729A/17 to Capt. S.9.)

Denmark Straits Patrol.

C. in C. H.F. 1202A/16. Intend to leave Hvalfiord on completion of oiling about 1700Z today to relieve NORFOLK on patrol "White".
(BERWICK, 1308Z/17.)
1700 sailed BERWICK.
(AC.I.C., 1942N/17.)

/Exchange ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Request that all copies of operation J.W. may be destroyed by fire and destruction certificates rendered to C. in C. Portsmouth. The standing instructions should not be destroyed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1647A/17.)

C.W.61 shelled.

BLENCATHRA reports:- C.W. 61 arrived. Nothing to report apart from usual shelling resulting in minor damage to hull of CRICHTOUN and one very slight casualty in Deal. T.O.O. 1145/17. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1726A/17.)

P.38 Patrol.

P.38 is to be ordered to Plymouth proceeding on the surface at discretion to prepare for a patrol off Cherbourg.
B. She is to be sailed p.m./20 to patrol in vicinity of position 49° 53' N.1° 47' W.
C. Object to attack and then report enemy cruisers or battle cruisers.
(F.O.S., 1857A/17.)
Proceed forthwith to Plymouth to refuel and complete with provisions as quickly as possible.
(2) R/V end of Q Z S 278 not earlier than 0900/18, keeping 10 miles off Lizard Head.
(Capt. S.5, 2050A/17 to P.38.)
(a) My 1050A/14 (1) amend route as follows. Details.
(b) Cancel Capt. (S) 7 1624A/14. H.32 has been diverted to Portsmouth.
(c) Keep East of Meridian of Land's End from 1200/18 owing to movements from vicinity of Wolf Rock to Southward.
(Capt. S.5, 2213A/16 to P.38.)

Cable laying. (M.L.MACKAY)

Sailed STELLA POLARIS and DRANGEY escorting Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY northabout to Ballinshelligs Bay, escorts returning to Belfast on complete.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2015A/17.)

HAZARD, SPEEDY. Engagement off Cape Gorodetski.

My 1840/C. Enemy force not sighted except for gun flashes but estimated to consist of 2 destroyers who maintain a high rate of fire with star shells and high explosives for 15 minutes. HAZARD and SPEEDY retiring behind smoke screen. Have lost touch with SPEEDY who was last seen proceeding at high speed on approximate south-westerly course. Have returned to Cape Gorodetski and intend to remain in the vicinity till daylight and carry out further sweep of searched channels to investigate reports of obstruction where SPEEDY parted sweep today.
(HAZARD, 2035C/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia, Reptd. 18 C.S., 1st M/S. F., SPEEDY.)

/In action ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

HAZARD, SPEEDY. Engagement off Cape Gorodetski. (Contd.)

In action 010° 14 miles Gorodetsky with enemy surface craft. Cannot find HAZARD. Am returning for damage repairs to gun. 2 casualties.
(SPEEDY, 2045A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
HAZARD at 1840C/17 reports being attacked by unknown enemy unit in position 068° 12' N. 41° E. HAZARD is in company with SPEEDY carrying A/S petrol prior to meeting P.Q.6.
No further signal received from HAZARD or SPEEDY. KENT with 2 Russian destroyers sailed from Kola Inlet with orders to intercept possible raiders or destroyers.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 2147C/17 to Admty.)
Gunfire and searchlights reported from your estimated position at 1845C today. Have you anything to report.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 2150C/17 to HAZARD.)
HAZARD's 2035C/17. LEDA proceeding now to R/V HAZARD. LEDA and HAZARD will await arrival P.Q.6 off Gorodetsky.
(S.O. 1st M/S. F., 2359C/17 to C.S.18, SPEEDY, HAZARD.)

British Air Activity.

Bombing operations.

On day 16/12 no operations took place.
On night 16/17, 70 A/C bombed Wilhelmshaven, 15 A/C attacked the Naval Units at Brest where bursts were seen in the dock area, 21 A/C bombed Ostend, and 5 attacked the harbour works at Dunkirk.
(H.Q.B.C., 1510/17.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy.

Enemy aircraft are attacking "Uphill" in 51° 42' N. 1° 21' E.
(Nore W/T, 0804/17.)

ROSEMARY attacked ZEELAND damaged on 16/12.

1. ROSEMARY attacked by two Heinkel 115 Floatplanes 6 miles east of St. Govans light vessel at 1800A/16. ROSEMARY reports attack driven off at close range and believed one aircraft shot down.
2. Dutch Motor Coaster ZEELAND attacked by one A/C believed Heinkel 115 Floatplane 5 miles W.N.W. of St. Govans light vessel at 1815A/16. Two bombs dropped. Vessel sustained some damage from near misses.
3. Both attacks from very low level.
No enemy aircraft were being plotted by C.H.L. at these times.
ROSEMARY first sighted 2 unidentified aircraft believed to be the above at 1730.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1609A/17.)

/Blarrick ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

Blarrick Camp bombed on 16/12.

At about 1930/16, 4 bombs were dropped on Blarrick Camp (Tregantle) causing following damage. Only one minor casualty.
(S.C.E. Devonport, 1725/17.)

Convoy "Wheel".

Help "Wheel" 275 in 49° 27' N. 2° 36' W.
(Plymouth, 1825/17.)

Mining.

Hvalfiord.

Your 1834Z/16. Aircraft minelaying suspected in Hvalfiord. VERITY detailed by S.O. H.F. to meet you at entrance to Fiord and proceed ahead of you at high speed.
(A.C.I.C., 0444N/17 to BERWICK.)

WELSHMAN.

Nothing to report. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1400.
(WELSHMAN, 0855/17.)
Arrived WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1503/17.)

Off Aldborough on 16/12.

Add to my 1830/16. One Dornier 17E and one Heinkel 111 each seen to drop long cylindrical objects. Both aircraft strongly engaged before objects were dropped. Heinkel set on fire in starboard engine but not seen to crash.
(GUILLEMOT, 1018A/17.)
(C. in C. Nore, 2220A/17.)

LL Trawlers for Yarmouth.

Your 1550A/16. Not approved as great importance is attached to working up. Should situation deteriorate reinforcements will be sent.
(A.C.N.S. H., 1227A/17 to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.)

Sweep off Dover.

Trawlers TAIPO and KINGSCOURT sweeping between Dover and Dumpton. Expected time of departure 1715, expected time of return 0330/18.
(V.A. Dover, 1549A/17.)

Thames Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1242/17. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1720/17.)

Sweep by 9th M/S Flotilla.

S.O. 13th M/S's 1505A, 2 laps swept by 9th M/S. One British M Mark One mine swept and drifted into unswept water. 11 similar mines exploded in sweep. 4 sweeps destroyed. Estimate one mile B S 26 cleared. Concur in S.O.13th M/S's remarks regarding position of this line. (S.O. 9th M/S. F., 1721/16 to C. in C. Nore.)

/Operation ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining - Contd.

Operation H.J. 2.	My 1348/17. Operation H.J.2, para. 9. Amend position (D) to 047° N. 005° 12' W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1932/17 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, WELSHMAN.)
Humber.	3 magnetic and 2 acoustic mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber, 1951A/17.)
Blyth.	Blyth port closed. Suspected minelaying. Estimated time of opening 1200 tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 2143A/17.)
Tyne.	Port closed owing suspected enemy minelaying. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2145/17.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest.	At 1015/17 a single indistinct photo shows PRINZ EUGEN at same berth as yesterday protected by Boom and camouflage in position. Floating crane not now seen alongside. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST, latter only part photoed, usual drydocks. GUEYDON Unit usual berth. Rest of port not photoed owing camera failure. M/V 450-500 ft. departed anchorage south of Rade and not seen elsewhere. (PRU St. Eval, 1330/17.) A.M. 1649A/16. PRU at 1015 shows no change. (D.D.I.C., 1635A/17.)
Enemy Unit.	Enemy unit unknown reported 60° 12' N. 41° E. (Murmansk W/T, 1840C/17 to F.O.S.)

Navigational.

N.W.Scroby Buoy.	Missing from station. Report confirmed. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1255A/17.)
62 C. Buoy.	Light extinguished. (VORTIGERN, 1345A/17.)

Casualties and Defects.

BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO, PAYNTER.	BLACKFLY, CAPE MARIATO and PAYNTER arrived with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1143A/17.)

/MACBETH ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MACBETH. — MACBETH is to be towed to Belfast.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1343A/17 to ZWARTE ZEE.)

VANOC. — Cancel my 1028A/16. VANOC will not sail due to defects.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1545A/17.)

Shipping and Convoys.

O.N. 48
O.N.46. — Your 1752N/16. Number of convoy should be O.N.46.
(D.T.D., 0611A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

LA NOUNE. — My 1700/16. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 0930/17.)

H.M. Convoys. — Your 1915A/15. Proposal to run H.M. convoys is concurred in, escorts being provided from Holyhead and Milford Haven escort forces. Para. 2 concur, subject to remarks on paras. 3 and 4. B.B. convoys formed of ships from H.X. convoys will normally contain a large proportion of tankers, thus requiring double escort. It is therefore most unlikely that a third A/A ship would be available for a B.B.(H) convoy at the same time. It is therefore proposed that H.X. convoys should be reformed as B.B.(fast) convoys and that any ships from Holyhead capable of convoy speed should be sailed to R/V with it. Ships with insufficient speed to remain at Holyhead for next B.B.(slow).
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 1024A/17 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.S. 18.
O.S. 19. — To avoid two convoys sailing from Liverpool on same date intend to sail O.S.18 on 18/1, O.S.19 on 30/1.
(C. in C. W.A., 1116A/17.)

P.Q.7. — My 1059N/12. Following ships of P.Q.7 not yet arrived LOWTHER CASTLE, EMPIRE ACTIVITY, and ANEROID.
(A.C.I.C., 1151N/17 to C. in C. H.F.)

O.S.16. — My 1114A/17. Amend to read O.S.16 sails 5/1.
(C. in C. W.A., 1726A/17.)

U.R.1. — Reykjavik arrived U.R.1, 1800N/17.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1753N/17.)

/C.T.S ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

C.T. 8. My 0646/12 para. 2. Due to delay in completion date of repairs to BERGENSFJORD sailing date of C.T.8 is postponed by three days.
(D.S.T., 2039A/17.)

T.C.16. My 2311A/13. Request you sail HAVELOCK, SHERWOOD, BLYSKAWICA, and NEWMARKET to meet T.C.16 and retain WALKER, WITHERINGTON, and VERITY as screen for RODNEY. HAVELOCK is required to refit in U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 2146A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

IMPERIALIST. Departure for Y.1. (V.A.C.N.A. 0811A/17 to Admty.)

URSULA. My 1823/16 departure URSULA A.M. Only such A.M. QZ affecting passage held. (F.O.C.N.A. 0832A/17 to Admty.)
Your 1817A/16 acknowledged. URSULA has your 1736A/16 and Q.Zmessage for Portsmouth Friday. (F.O.C.N.A. 2018A/17 to F.O.S.)

Fuelling, P. Delgada. ROCKROSE, JASMINE arrived Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T. HIGHLANDER, HARVESTER, LIGHTNING left 0900 G.M.T./17th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 0945/17 to S.O.I. Gibraltar).

Suspicious ship. At 1045/16th A/C on passage to Gibraltar sighted about 30 miles N. of Farilhoes Island small ship resembling Dutch Skoot steering 200°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1001A/17 to Gibraltar Force).

Sweep by D.19. Swept through 0619 position at 0700. My position 1015, 290° Spartel II. Course 290° 18 knots. Oil patches over wide area. Request air co-operation. (Capt. D.19, 1018A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

SCOTTISH. Your 2020A/16 (N.T. in W.D.) Owing to 7 hour delay in obtaining check of position I did not commence search until 1030. May I continue beyond 1500? Sea N.W. 25 Wind North 4. Weather Report 9080. (SCOTTISH, 1130A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 2020A/16. Regret no result. Weather Report. (SCOTTISH 2000A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

AIGLON. LORD GREY. Following is repetition my 1236A/17 (begins) Addressed Admiralty repeated C.C. W.A. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.I. F.O.C.N.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown, N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada S.M. for British Vice-Consul Horta, N.A. Lisbon, from N.O.I.C. Greenock. Sailed minesweeping Trawlers AIGLON and LORD GREY in accordance with Admty. 1933/26/8 amended by 1652/23/9 and C. in C. W.A. 1146/11/12 approx. E.T.A. Fayal 31/12 (coal required). (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1238A/17 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada for B.V.C. Horta, N.A. Lisbon).

MANXMAN. My 1838/16. Sailed MANXMAN at 1615/17. MANXMAN will signal her E.T.A. Milford Haven 12 hours beforehand. (F.O.C.N.A. 1632A/17 to Admty.)

OLTERRA.....

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

OLTERRA.
PLUTON.

Italian Tanker OLTERRA discharged at Algeciras into Spanish Govts. Tanker PLUTON on 16/12 and former is now in Ballast. PLUTON sailed a.m./17 laden without applying for Navicert, destination unknown. (S.O.I. Gib., 1736A/17 to N.A. Madrid).

PAUT (Spanish)
OLTERRA. (Italian)

Spanish Fleet Oiler PAUT left Algeciras laden 0845 cargo believed ex. Italian tanker, OLTERRA at ?1445. She was sighted in 35° 34' N. 06° 28' W. steering 220°. (S.O.I. Gib. 1833A/17 to Admty.)

PLUSOAK.

Your1625/17 (N.T. in W.D.) PLUSOAK will not state destination says she is Spanish Warship under Government orders. Course over 4 hours indicates Canary Islands. Am returning to Gibraltar. P.C. and S. 035° 07' N. 007° 04' W. 050° 12. E.T.A. 0700/18. (LA MALOUINE, 1845A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

FARADAY, etc. for Freetown.

Your 1828A/16. In view of U-boat situation West of Gibraltar and great value of FARADAY these ships should not be sailed until a strong escort can be provided through the danger area. (A.C.N.S. (T) 2156A/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.12Z.

Further transhipments necessary. Revised disposal of vessels. Details. (D. of S.T. 0125A/17 and 1902A/17 to P.S.T.O. Simonstown). See Lion Copy.
Following from Mideast addressed War Office. (Begins): Mov.1/38619 16/12. In view of diversion W.S.12X request that if possible arrangements be made to disembark the drafts and details for Mideast in WEST POINT, WAKEFIELD, and ORIZABA to (group missing) about 9430 (?1430) at Durban or any other suitable point for on carriage. Agreed. (Ends). 2. It is quite impracticable for W.S.12X to be accepted at Durban at same time as W.S. 12Z. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1440Z/17, to C. in C. E.I. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.L.O. Durban).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

Enemy Transmission. At 0253/17 Ricochet E 5104 35 17th, Simonstown 334 3rd class, Durban no zero (? signal), check bearing Simonstown D.A.N. 355 3rd class. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0307Z/17 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

NAILSEA MOOR Suspicious Ship. Following has been read. 02.13 S. 03.27 W. Follow suspicious vessel. (Takoradi Radio, 0825Z/17).
Following has been read. QQQQ Merchant Ship Raider. NAILSEA MOOR. (Takoradi Radio, 0859Z/17).
Sighted vessel on starboard bow about 5 miles nearly bow on. We altered course port, she turned bow on. We put her (?dead) astern and she remained bow on. We waited about 10 minutes other vessel remained bow on and message was sent. About 5 minutes after sending message she turned stern on and when out of sight we cancelled message. Steamer was about 10,000 tons 3 parts loaded grey hull and deck work. Fore and main masts short orange mast by funnel. Similar to modern Empire boats. Master. (NAILSEA MOOR, 2030/17 to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

INDOMITABLE. My 1155Z/16 is being passed to you. (C. in C. S.A. 1008Z/17 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown) Admty. 1944A/16. Concurred INDOMITABLE fuelling Capetown. My 1155Z/16, cancel positions (E), (F) and (G) INDOMITABLE is to proceed direct to Capetown from position D. (C. in C. S.A., 1113Z/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., INDOMITABLE

3rd B.S. On reaching 19° N. alter course for new position X. 011° N. 017° 40' W. thence to Freetown omitting position (B). To avoid convoy O.S. 13, also due Freetown 21st, you should arrive Freetown as soon after daylight as possible. A trawler burning dimmed navigation lights will be at the end of the swept channel from 0400Z/21. (C. in C. S.A. 1227Z/17 to R.A. 3 B.S., (R) BRILLIANT, HURWORTH, Admty. Escort O.S. 13).

/WILDWOOD.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

WILDWOOD.
EAST INDIAN.

Following U.S. Flag ships are discharging cargo by lighters on coast Liberia.
(A) S.S. WILDWOOD at Marshall (06.07' N. 10.23' W.) until 7/1.
(B) S.S. EAST INDIAN at Fisherman Lake (06.47' N. 11.24' W.) until 24/12. 2. These two ships are landing bulk of material for airport in Liberia for movement of American aircraft to Middle East Their safety is therefore of great importance as loss of cargoes would delay completion six months. (D.O.D. (F) 1701A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.L. Convoy Telegrams.

Ref. C.B. 04024 Art. 82. To assist in allocation of destination of ships sailing in S.L. Convoys request advance sailing telegrams may be despatched not less than 4 days or more than six days before S.L. Convoy sails. (D.T.D., 1707A/17 to N.C.S.O. Freetown).

Local Protection.

Consider reasonable protection can be provided with Corvettes, S.D.F. vessels and aircraft co-operating. (C. in C. S.A., 1811Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.I.)

CROMARTY FIRTH.

Your 1108Z/15. CROMARTY FIRTH did not sail in O.S. 12. (D.T.D. 1844A/17 to C. in C. S.A.)

PRESIDENTE MITRE.

My 2137Z/13 PRESIDENTE MITRE left Buenos Aires 1900 G.M.T. today 17th. All Japanese crew have been taken off but there are 4 Japanese and 1 German aboard who are naturalised. (S.O.I. Montecideo, 1941Z/17 to Admty.)

R.A.3. B.S.

Admty. 2125/14. Rear-Adm. Bonham-Carter and staff should return to U.K. in S.L. 96. (Naval Secretary 2109A/17 to C. in C. S.A. (R) R.A.3.B.S.)

Reported U/B Base.

Your 1429Z/10 (Establishment of supply base for submarines and raiders in vicinity of Florianopolis so far no confirmation. (R.O. Florianopolis 2130Z/17 to S.O.I. Montevideo.)

/1.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic-Contd.

1. U.S. Minister in Liberia has asked U.S. Govt. for protection of radio stations at Harper and Pan American Airways developments as Vichy troops reported near Liberian borders.
2. Request cannot be met by American War Dept. but latter regard this radio and airport development important to maintenance of communications between U.S. and Middle East.
3. Liberian Govt. whilst desiring to remain neutral will interpret neutrality benevolently in favour of Allies.
4. Grateful your views and if you can assist in this problem. Provision of troops before emergency would of course require previous diplomatic arrangement.
5. Will B.A.D. Washington please cable details protection required to G.O.C. in C. West Africa with copy to Admiralty.
(W.O. 2200/17 to G.O.C. in C. W. Africa (R) B.A.D.)

Mediterranean.

Encounter with Enemy Fleet.

Enemy Fleet.

P;C. and S. of enemy 2 large vessels (type unknown), 335° AURORA 50. Enemy is formed in single line ahead. No. of destroyers screening enemy is unknown. (Med. A/C 0040B/17).
Following has been received. (Begins) Unknown number of destroyers and larger units P.C. and S. 039° 32' 017° 39' 140° 20 knots. 2245B/16. (ends). (C. in C. Med. 0606B/17 to Med, Fleet.)
Following has been received, (begins) Large numbers of destroyers, possibly heavy ships. P.C. and S. 039° 17' 018° 00' 160° 14 knots. 2358B/16. (Ends). (C. in C. Med., 0608B/17 to Med. Fleet amended 0936B/17).
Following received from Mediterranean A/C. P.C. and S. of 3 Battleships, 7 Destroyers, Position 36° 32' N. 20° 8' E. Course 155°. Speed 10 knots. (Nore W/T 0825/17 to Whitehall W/T).
Blenheim 1006/17, see 1535/B/17.

/Force B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Encounter with Enemy Fleet-Contd.

Force B.

(1) Intend to sail Force "B" consisting of NEPTUNE, KANDAHAR and JAGUAR at 1500B today to reach 032° 40' N., 016° 06' E. at 2300B with second special Wellington co-operation.
(2) After reaching above position Force will sweep on N.E. course keeping south of latitude 034° N. (3) Object intercepting of Tripoli (Libya) Convoy. (4) Torpedo Bombers will attack merchant ships if situation appears suitable.
(V.A. Malta, 1102B/17 to C. in C. Med.)
3 enemy battleships, 7 destroyers, 036° 32' 020° 08' course 155°, 10 knots, at 0825Z/17.
(Capt. S.10 1109B/17 to TORBAY amended 1239B/17).
At 1122B/17, 3 Battle ships, 7 destroyers in 36° 22' N. 20° 08' E., course 220°, 10 knots.
2 Cruisers and 3 destroyers are estimated 8 miles ahead of battle fleet. (V.A. Malta, 1330/17 to Med. Fleet.)
P.M. R/C.
(1) One Maryland shadowed battle fleet already reported to land back by 1830 from A.
(2) 2 Blenheims searching to west and north of enemy battle fleet for convoys.
(3) Wellington call sign "Diplomat" M. 9 V. co-operating with you after dark.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1412B/17 to F.O. 15 C.S.)
Following has been read from Mediterranean aircraft. P. C. and S. of enemy - 2 - KIAQS 33.36 N., 23.53 E., - 170° - 4.
(Nore W/T 1520/17).
P. C. and S. of 3 enemy battleships, 2 cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 merchant vessels, 35° 47' N. 18° 11' E., 140° 12 knots.
(Med. A/C 1525B/17 to FLIRT).
Departure NEPTUNE, KANDAHAR, JAGUAR.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 1532B/17 to Admty.)
Following is correct text 1006 from Blenheim F (begins) H.Q. Malta from Blenheim F, 2 merchant vessels, 1 cruiser, 035° N., 011° 40' E., 000°, 10 knots, T.O.O. 1006 (ends).
(Malta C.C.O., 1535B/17 to Med. Fleet.)

Force K.

V.A. Malta's 1102B/17th received.
Force K operating West of 019° 30' E. tonight 17th/18th. Alexandria force searching through M.E. positions. Numerous torpedo bombers and H.L.B. attacks. 1 T.B. A/C exterminated to date. (F.O.C. 15 C.S. 1543/17).

/Force B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Encounter with Enemy Fleet-Contd.

Force B, revised orders.

Cancel ?V.A. Malta's 1102B/17. Force B cover BRECONSHIRE's passage to Northward during night.
(2) Unless enemy battleships separate or other good reason exists do not seek out battleships but go for convoys. Force K being detached to deal with Tripoli (Libya) convoy, C.S. 15's force to go for Benghazi ships.
(3) Failing further R/C report it is estimated convoys will separate in approx. 034° 55' N. 018° 40' E. and proceed for Benghazi at 13 knots, Tripoli (Libya) convoy at 16 knots. Battle fleet is likely to steer towards 033° 00' N. 018° 00' E.
(4) BRECONSHIRE proceed direct passing South of Hurd Bank. (C. in C. Med., 1545B/17 to C.S. 15., NEPTUNE, S.O. Force K, BRECONSHIRE (R) Mediterranean Fleet, etc.)
5 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, 10 Destroyers, 4 Merchant Ships, P.C. and S. 035° 47' N. 018° 11' E. 140° 12 knots at 1525B/17. (V.A. Malta 1615B/17 to S/M's on Patrol.)
P.C. and S. of enemy, 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 12 destroyers 4 merchant vessels, 35.35 N. 18.16 E. 180°, 12. (Malta, 1625B/17 to G.B.2.)
14 Vessels, type unknown, Destroyers or larger Warships 4 Merchant Vessels, 170° 10' 150°, 35° 23' 18° 33'. (D.R.6 Aircraft of V. Squad 1630/17 to R.7 M?).
M. NR. one. Position 35° 25' N. 18° 16' E. 180° 12. (Med. A/C of U Sqdn. 1707/17 to Hal Far).

Enemy Attack.

Scale of attack has become heavy and expenditure of ammunition high.
(F.O. 15 C.S. 1735/17 to C. in C. Med.)
LNUN 300 15 33.52 N., 18.38 E., based on reference position of the Admiral at 1700.
(C. S. 15 1745/17 to Malta W/T).
My 1745. 2 battleships, enemy course is 180° 33.50 N., 18.37 E., based on reference position of Admiral at 1700. (C.S. 15 1755/17 to Malta W/T).

Battle Fleet Action.

Enemy battle fleet has opened fire.
(C.S.15 1755/17 to Malta W/T.)
Enemy course is 180°. (C.S.15 1756/17 to Malta W/T).
2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 12 destroyers, 4 merchant ships, P.C. and S. 035° 35' N. 018° 16' E. 180° 12 knots at 1625B/17.
(V.A. Malta 1817B/17 to S/Ms on patrol area A.)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Encounter with Enemy Fleet-Contd.

Following has been read from C.S.15. Am not in touch Enemy Battle Fleet now. (Nore W/T 1847/17 to Whitehall W/T).
Force Q engaged at 1755 with a (? second) enemy force in position 33.50 N. 18.37 E. First enemy force about 70 miles to northward. Endeavour report both forces to C.S. 15. (C.C.O. Malta 1856B/17 to Med. A/C, (R) C.S.15.)

BRECONSHIRE. Unless you have good reason to contrary BRECONSHIRE should be sent to Malta covered by such force as you think fit. Risk for her must be accepted. (C. in C. Med., 1922B/17 to C.S.15 amended 1949B/17).
My 1922B/17. Alexandria force and Group 1 should carry out purport of my 1545B/17 if possible but be East of 021° 00' E. by daylight.
Force K should return to Malta likewise.
(C. in C. Med. 1935B/17 to 15 C.S. (R) S.O. Force K, BRECONSHIRE?)
10 unknown 315 AURORA 45 235 15.
(Med. A/C, 2252/17).
O.E.B.D. Enemy's centre bears 325° 38 miles from AURORA. (Med. A/C 0053B/18).
Enemy's centre bears 310° 18 miles from AURORA. (Med. A/C 0110B/18).
Enemy's centre bears 305° 40 miles. (Med. A/C 0131/18).
Following R/C's arranged by Naval Cooperative Group 2nd. Area South of 035° 40' N. Swept out to longtitude 020° 00' E. by 0900 approx.
Southerly half of search repeat 3 hours later.
Blenheims aircraft standing by to provide bomber cover. (C. in C. Med., 2258/17, F.O. 15 C.S. (R) N.C.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force K., Naval Co-op. Group 201).

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

UNIQUE R.of P. (I) UNIQUE reports no patrol S.E. of Spartivento Cape but constant E-boat patrol South of Del Armi when weather permits. (II) At 0900/14 heard 3 explosions at about 4 seconds intervals, about 5 minutes later depth charges commenced, over 40 being dropped in half hour. (III) At 0927/14 in 037° 45' 015° 43' sighted 1 battleship with 1 destroyer astern bearing 250° 12000 yards steering 125° speed 20. (IV) Closed at full speed 50 feet, at 0943 vessels approached at speed from N.W. and counter attacked with depth charges. UNIQUE went slow to 80 feet and at 0945 sweep wire scraped aft and immediately fired indicator charges, this was followed by 14 very small close charges, enemy heard over head but no further action. (V) Enemy definitely battleship class unidentified.
(Capt. S. 10 0150B/17 to Capt. S.1.)

"A" Lighters. R.A. Alexandria 1758/16. If 2 or more A lighters are ready sail them to join "Loose" off Mersa Matruh with (? orders) to return to Mersa Matruh if they cannot keep up with (? convoy.)
(S.O. Force I. Tobruk, 0913B/17 to N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh.)

Russian Ships ex Black Sea. My 1737B (1737B/5 intended re MIKOYAN attacked by E. Boats and torpedo A/C off Kastelerizo.) I have now received report from Lieut. Harkness and again stress necessity for defensive armament to be supplied to second batch. (ii) Please inform Adm. Miles.
(N.A. Ankara 1132B/17 to Admty.)

Russian Oil for Turkey Your 1140A/12. Following from Adm. Kelly. Turks hope for (?total) delivery of oil approx. 65000 tons. Of this 24000 tons have been delivered by first batch of tankers. 2. Total remaining stowage available is just over 36,000 tons provided composition of the cargoes is such as to enable tanks to be completely filled. 3. Recommended that not more than 30,000 of oil products are loaded in second batch for Istanbul. 4. Please pass to Adm. Miles and C. in C. Med.
(N.A. Ankara 1214B/17 to Admty.)

Petrol and Oil for Malta. Your 1300/4 para 2.
Governor Malta reports requirements as 10,000 tons aviation spirit by 31st March if 9 months' reserve is to be built up.

/Para 5. ...

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Petrol and Oil for Malta - contd.

Para.3. Consideration will certainly be given to running white oil tanker with black oil tanker if situation developes so that 10 knots convoy is practicable. Governor Malta suggests that 3,000 tons cased aviation spirit (100 Octane) should be held ready for shipment and presumably also requires a proportion of cased (Bows?) group missing ND Kerosene to be held ready. Seven days notice will be given for commencement of unloading a Malta Convoy. V.A. Malta pass to Governor Malta/Admiralty pass to D.S.T. Air Ministry War Office.
(C. in C. Med. 1301B/17 to M.E.S.C. G.H.Q. M.E. Admty. S.M.S.C. V.A. Malta Group Missing Alexandria H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Aden S.T.O.

Request reply to my 1845/19/11.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 0913/13 to D. of S.T.)
Your 0223A/16 (Sent by W/R on receipt of P.S.T.O. Egypt's 0913/13) Following is a repetition of my 1845/19/11. Ref. C. in C. Med's 1219/18/10 (Red Sea including Aden to form part of Mediterranean Station.) Request instructions as to whether sea transport organization of Aden and Gulf of Aden ports are to be under control of P.S.T.O. Egypt.
(P.S.T.O. Egypt 1345/17 to D. of S.T.)

Enemy M/V.

6,000 tons ship Derna 290° 1215.
(201 Group H.Q. 1515/17 to Med.A/C B.C.S.)
My 1515. Fighters report 6,000 tons ship ANTIOCH Derna. (201 Group 1615/17 to Med. A/C B.C.S.)

Libya.

Military Situation Reports, Group 4, Cositrep 57. (C. in C.M.E., 1658/17 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Taranto R/C

Taranto R/C 17/12 blank owing to weather.
(V.A. Malta 1701B/17 to C. in C. Med., B.1.)

/Malta ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Malta Air Report.	C.S.R. Malta to 1600 hours 17/12/41 16th, 6 Blenheims attacked M/V Argostoli. 2 returned engine trouble. Remainder bombed, near misses. Night 16-17/12. 5 Naval aircraft Catania Aerodrome. Bombs dropped. Some seen to explode. 12 Wellingtons attacked Naval Shipping Taranto bombs dropped, target obscured no results observed, many flashes seen through cloud. 1 Aircraft bombed alternative Brindisi, bursts near Naval H.Q. and railway station. (H.Q., R.A.F. Malta, 2130/17.)

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Situation report.

Burma. No enemy activity. Evening 13/12 patrol near Myawadi encountered Thai post, shots exchanged. Refugee from Thailand via Victoria Point states transporting 75 feet submarine in sections to Pakchan river. Previous report from this source unreliable. Believed, however, Japanese there considerable number outboard motors suitable local craft. Unconfirmed report 2,000 Japanese Ranong area operation up coast may be contemplated. Air R/C over Northern Thailand negative. (G.O.C. Burma, 0040/17 to W.O.)

Reinforcements from India. Personal A.C.M. Brooke-Popham repeated Troopers for C.I.G.S. Possibility of reinforcements Singapore must be engaging your earnest attention and I am anxious to co-operate.
I imagine possibility of ships getting to Penang or to Singapore via Malacca Straits is remote in view of enemy air threats. Would it be advisable or possible to send troops by Sunda Strait to Batavia or Sumatra for onward shipment as opportunity offers? Early decision necessary as shipping necessarily takes some time. We could make one or possibly two infantry brigade groups available if your need is urgent but do not wish to despatch more troops unless reinforcements required to turn scale.
(C. in C. India, 0040/17 to C. in C. Far East).

EXETER. Colombo arrival 03252/17.
(S.O.(I) Colombo, 0638Z/17 to Admty etc).

ELLENGA. My 0914/15/11 ELLENGA which is due to sail December (?20) is now required to proceed to Rangoon and not Singapore. May ship join B.R one convoy off Madras 30/12. This date is based on convoy (?sailing from) Bombay 22/12.
(S.S.T.O. India, 0709Z/17 to C. in C. E.I.)

Limits of E.I. Stn. (1) Genl. Wavell has suggested in view of new conditions under which India controls military and air defence of Burma, limit of East Indies Station should be altered to include Coast of Burma and Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
(2) I feel this request is made chiefly because General is anxious there should only be 1 Naval Authority with whom he has to deal.
(3) I therefore propose to reply in following sense.

/(a)...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Limits of .E.I. Stn. Contd.

(a) In opinion of C. in C. E.F. and myself, Far East situation is too fluid to allow of a specific alteration of station boundaries at this stage. (b) As a provisional measure it has been agreed, first that India should consult me on all Naval matters regardless of the area concerned; and, secondly, that I should assume full control of all convoys and shipping between India and Rangoon.
(c) In problems which arise off my station and in all maters of higher policies I will consult C. in C. E.F.
(d) Do you concur?
(C. in C. E.I., 0742Z/17 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty). Concur. (C. in C. E.F. 0150Z/18).

Mine watching. In order to complete minewatching requirements in Persian Gulf S.N.O.P.G. requires 15 Motor Launches speed 7 to 8 knots, capacity 25 men each. Purpose to convey minewatching personnel. Can you provide. (C. in C. E.I. 0958Z/17 to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

WESTERNLAND, DEMPO, FELIX ROUSSEL. Transports sailed from Bombay 16/12. in BA 11 due Aden 21/12. Details. (S.S.T.O. India, 1132Z/17).

GUARDIAN, KIRRIEMOOR, LAOMEDON, ATREUS.

In view of decision not to proceed with defences of Nancowry, (corrupt group) following programmes for ships concerned.
(1) GUARDIAN. To complete to capacity with standard nets (corrupt group) fuel, stores and provisions. Fit F and Q coils. Embark indicator nets for Diego Garcia and proceed to lay these at end of December.
(2) KIRRIEMOOR. See my 1214/15 para. (3).
(3) LAOMEDON. To be retained as a supply and personnel ship for Addu Atoll and Diego Garcia. The need for such a ship has greatly increased following recall of CHANGTE.
(4) (?Mine Carrier ATREUS). To load to capacity C.M.loops and to remain at Ceylon in readiness for any further commitment.
(C. in C. E.I., 1304Z/17 to C. in C. E.F., Admty.)

Diego Garcia. Admty. Message 1202/12 and 1330/23/8 para. (F)
(1) The work at Diego Garcia is not progressing
(G) The present position is that the M.N.B.D.O. have (a) landed the guns, mountings M.T. and stores (b) Towed the guns and mountings to Battery site (c) Erected and fitted fresh water tanks and (d) Supplied various stores and equipment for installing defences which Indians (corrupt group) lacked.

/(II)...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Diego Garcia. Contd.

(II) Despite this assistance it is becoming more and more evident these Indian troops have neither the makings nor the training required for a task of this nature.
(III) In view of increased urgency of matter I propose to suggest to A.R.M. India that force at short cut (The M.N.B.D.O. Contingent allocated to Nancowry operation) be sent to assist at Diego Garcia as soon as they have completed their recuperative leave i.e. early in January.
(C. in C. E.I., 1356Z/17 to Admty).

Chinese Action.

Your 22/7 and 29/7 of 14/12 and W.O.57779 (M.O.1) of 13/12 (0155/14). Understand Chinese action in the direction of Hong Kong already arranged and seems obviously desirable. Invasion of Indo China will probably consolidate French to resist and direct effect would seem to be small. Indirect assistance advocated in para. 4 of your M.292 dated 9/12 might be valuable. Best role for Air Forces is protection of Rangoon and of Burma Road. (C. in C. India, 1815/17 to M.A. Chungking).

Need for Blenheims.

Following for C.O.S. When may we expect Blenheims Unless they can arrive very soon it may be too late. Japanese aircraft seen massed in Bangkok aerodrome could not be attacked owing to there being no bombers. It is essential we should reduce scale of attack on Rangoon by counter bombing or else reinforcement by sea may become impossible and aerodrome unusable. Defence of Burma depends mainly on keeping open Rangoon which is only port and keeping aerodromes in action. Loss of oil supplies from Burma will also be serious. (C. in C. India, 2205/17 to W.O.)

China.

LE TRIOMPHANT. Sailed (?Sumatra) 15 following is proposed programme.

Arrive	Place	Leave.
23/12	Noumea	25/12
27/12	Brisbane	28/12
3/1	Port Darwin	4/1
7/1	Sourabaya	8/1
9/1	Batavia	

Passed to F.N.F.L. Noumea by British Consul Noumea
(LE TRIOMPHANT, 0025Z/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

/Japanese...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Japanese at Lutong and Miri.

16/12. Kuchung reports today 10 large warships with tanker at Lutong and Miri. Asiatic employer Tanjong Barum W/T stations reports seeing Japanese flag over Lutong. No further confirmation received at 1300 G.M.T./16. (C. in C. F.E., 0101/17 to W.O. (R) C. in C. A.F)
Report from Kuchung states that 9 warships Japanese, 1 Tanker 1 submarine are off Miri. Troops landed at D.S. (3letters missing) Ram Poiyi 20 miles north of Miri. One warship off Lutong. Time 13352/16. (C. in C. F.E., 0133/17 to W.O. (R) C.Z.M., C. in C. A.F.)

Dutch and Oil Schemes.

Your 2356/16. I have no reason to doubt their assurance which has been given to me most definitely and would be in conformity with full support they are giving us in other directions. (C. in C. E.F., 01312/17 to Admty)

Malaya.

Military Situation report. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya 0622/17 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

G.H.Q. Far East.

G.H.Q. Far East has been moved by C. in C. from Naval Base to (?vicinity of) combined Army and R.A.F. H.Q. near Singapore Town.
2. The (?Far East) Combined Bureaux function giving warning of war with Japan has ceased on outbreak of hostilities. The one intelligence organization of G.O.C. and A.O.C. have proved inadequate.
3. I have therefore consented to removal of Army and Air Sections of Far East Combined Bureau to new G.H.Q. (?Far East) and have made arrangements to keep their Heads in (?daily) touch with Capt. on Staff Singapore.
4. Capt. on Staff Singapore is informing D.N.I. of position as affecting Naval Section, Far East Combined Bureau. (C. in C. E.F., 0647Z/17 to Admty)

Hong Kong.

There appear to be movements of enemy troops eastwards towards High Junk, Clear Water Bay areas. Further enemy parties have landed on Lammas. (G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0922/17 to C. in C. F.E., W.O.)

Movements.

Singapore arrivals 17/12 Oiler ELMOL Netherlands Sloop SOEMBA, SCOUT, ELECTRA, EXPRESS, Batavia arrival and departrue. ?ENCOUNTER, STRONGHOLD, TENEDOS. (S.O.(I) Singapore, 09572/17 to Admty).

Night...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Movements. - Contd.

Night 16/17th heavy mortar fire along water front between Star ferry and Taikoo. 14 Army light bombers raided island this morning and made two separate attacks first in Shankiwan-Wanciai area Garden Road and Central District. No military damage or casualties. Aircraft hitherto identified as participating in attack on Hong Kong are Navy R/C float planes type 94, Navy heavy bombers type 96, Army light bombers type 98, Army fighters type (?97). Largest formation seen 36 in initial attack Kai-Tak. Largest bombs dropped 250 pounds. (G.O.C., Hong Kong, 2130/17).

Shipping.

Your 1830A/15 not to A.C.N.B. Policy in A.M. 1915A/10 being followed with exceptions (A) Coastal tankers for Singapore and West Coast Malaya up to Port Swettenham are still running.
(B) These tankers are still loading from Soe Soe Ampladjoc and Galak Papam.
(C) These Tankers must continue to run as long as possible.
2. British shipping has been withdrawn British North Borneo. Position of ships from Hong (? Kong) and Manila is not yet clear.
3. Ships are leaving Singapore independently as quickly as possible, being loaded first with as much rubber, tin and sugar as time permits.
4. 40 British ships ?including coasters of aggregate tonnage about 150,000 tons are still in Singapore. Only 1 of these are above 5,000 tons.
4 Norwegian ships including one about 5,000 tons one American above 5,000 tons and nine Dutch including two above 5,000 tons are also present.
5. DOLIUS and BELLEROPHON being escorted from Batavia to Singapore with urgent war stores.
6. All full tankers and WAR SIRDAR are clear of Malaya.
7. BRITISH JUDGE bringing diesel oil from Luadjoe to Singapore.
8. Your 2013/16 not to C. in C. E.I. or A.C.N.B. Arrangements have already been made to lift 18000 tons aviation spirit from Balwh Papan.
9. Malacca Strait still being used for ships of secondary importance. Valuable ships routed via Sunda. Possibility exists of not being able to use Malacca Strait if and when enemy bombing commences.
(C. in C. E.F., 1030Z/17 to Admty (R) C. in C., E.I., A.C.N.B.)

/Dispositions...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Dispositions. Allied ships in Far Eastern area. Local defence vessels are not included. A. British
(i) DURBAN(?), DRAGON, EXPRESS, ELECTRA, JUPITER, VAMPIRE, SCOUT and TEVIOT BANK at Singapore. ENCOUNTER and THANET expected to arrive 18th.
(ii) STRONGHOLD and TENEDOS left Batavia 17th for Singapore escorting 2 motor vessels.
(iii) KUNGWO leave Nancowry 18th.
B. Dutch.
(i) Submarines K.12 and K.13 at Singapore. Netherlands Submarine O(?) 16 expected 18th.
(ii)Submarine K.11 K.17 O? 19 and O? 20 patrolling off East Coast Malaya.
(iii) Cruiser JAVA in vicinity Christmas Island.
(iv) Destroyers DE RUYTER, TROMP, PIET HEIN, and BANCKERT in South China Sea south of Equator.
(v) Submarines K.14 and K.16 in Carimata Strait.
(vi) (Destroyer ? KORTENAER) in Celebes Sea.
(vii) Destroyer VAN NES escorting S.S. NELLORE from (corrupt group+) to Batavia.
(viii) Destroyer EVERTSEN at Batavia.
(ix) JANSSEN due Singapore 19th.
(x) Submarines K.10 and K.15 near Sourabaya.
C. American.
(i) 2 large submarines off Indo China Coast.
(ii) Cruisers BOISE, HOUSTON, auxiliary GOLD STAR destroyers STEWART, J.D. EDWARDS, ALDEN, JOHN D. FORD, EDSALL, WHIPPLE, PARROTT, BARKER OT (corrupt group+) at Sourabaya.
Destroyer GEO. R. BADGER, cruiser MARBLE HEAD, seaplane tender LANGLEY, oiler TRINITY, destroyers BULMER, PAUL JONES, POPE, Patrol Boat ISABEL, submarine Tender HOLLAND, oiler PECOS passage to Sourabaya from Balik Papan. (iv) Other units not known. (C. in C. E.F., 1157Z/17 to Admty).

Situation and Appreciation. B.A.D. Washington message 2035R/14. Statement by U.S. C.N.O. Strikes me as extremely pessimistic perhaps due to severe and unaccustomed shocks recently received by him. Singapore must not fall. Fall of Luzon would be distressing but not calamitious provided Singapore is held.
Two. Situation in Far Eastern Area is seen in three stages. Stage one. The present. We must hold with Army and Air to what we can in order to secure Singapore. Stage two. We must throw in military and air reinforcements to Singapore. Stage three. After arrival of reinforcements we must drive Japanese up Malaya Peninsula and hit them with air until arrival Eastern Fleet at Singapore. This is complementary to broad plan in my 0445Z/15.
3. Glassford's cruiser force is suitably based at present at Sourabaya but talking of retirement to Australia is tantamount to abandonment of Far East Area. He should be looking west and north not east and south.

/4...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Situation and Appreciation Contd.

4. Requirements in stage one are submarines and destroyers based Singapore. The nearest available are American. Requirements in stage 2 are cruisers in addition and Glassford's help in passing reinforcements through Sunda Strait. Am confident Dutch will help to their utmost ability. By end of stage 3 it is hoped U.S. Pacific Fleet will have taken offensive action and be moving west to link with our Eastern Fleet.
5. Ref. part 2. para. 4 of B.A.D. Washington's 2035R/14. Have consulted C. in C. Far East who strongly advises that this equipment should not stop in Australia. He points out that its arrival in Java would enable either Philippine Islands or Malaya to be either reinforced or supported depending upon the position at the time. This would not be the case if situated at Port Darwin.
6. Under existing circumstances suggest question in paras. 3, 4 and 5 above can only be taken up effectively in London or Washington.
7. Meanwhile urgent need for Singapore in addition to military and air reinforcements is more submarines and yet more submarines.
(C. in C. E.F., 1337Z/17 to Admty (R) B.A.D. A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. F.E.)

Need for Air Reinforcement

Following for Chiefs of Staff. Very grateful for all your promises of help but our ability to hold Japanese may well depend upon speed at which air reinforcements reach Malaya. Chief anxiety at present fighters, since 17 Buffalos here out of dwindling reserve unserviceable awaiting spares from American which were coming by air but now may not arrive. 24 of the 32 Buffalos in Burma have similar defects. Fortuitous availability of wing of Hurricane fighters with spares in convoy W.S.12 Z now in Indian Ocean may well be solution if it is at once diverted to Java where I would propose it should be disembarked for erection and aircraft flown here. In this way effective units might be in action within six weeks. To tide over interim period could aircraft carrier now in Indian Ocean be made available to transport Kittyhawks and spares to be erected on board and flown here. Large air reinforcements later including bombers would be valueless if we cannot maintain intact operational aerodromes and maintenance facilities which will soon be open to heavy scale of air attack from bases in Kelantan and Kedah. (C. in C. F.E., 1354/17 to W.O. (R) C. in C. India).

/Enemy...

War Diary. 17.12.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. - Contd.

Enemy Intelligence.

(1) Sighted by air R/C today Wednesday 01. 502 of Miri, one battleship or battle cruiser, one aircraft carrier, 3 destroyers, all stopped. In position 005° N., 112° E., at 0130Z, 3 China, one destroyer course 270°.
(2) Japanese transports using 375 kc/s frequency.
(3) Russian merchant ships report being bombed position 004° 55' N., (?106°) 45' E.
(C. in C. F.E., 1436Z/17 amended 0201Z/18)

Hong Kong.

Summary No. 3 Saturday 13th. One float plane destroyed. Claimed by TERN confirmed by CICALA. Sunday 14th. Steady shelling of Island during day. High level bomb attack on Aberdeen, 8 bombs hit. Generating station hit, but no damage to machinery. During night THRACIAN grounded on way into Hong Kong. Refloated under own power. Ship proceeded and sank two river steamers in Kowloon Bay. Monday 15th. Further bomb attack Aberdeen. A.P.V. INDIDA (?INDIRA) sunk alongside. THRACIAN docked at Aberdeen. Steady shelling of Island during day. Tuesday 16th. 8 high level bombing attacks on Aberdeen. Very accurate from 20,000 feet. 9 hits in Yard, one salvo. M.L. 08 and GATLING burst out. THRACIAN target, unable to effect repairs THRACIAN, Nos. 1 and 2 tanks flooded and living accommodation forward. Regret obliged to undock ship, beach elsewhere, dismantle, using crew and armament where can best be employed. Most A.P.Vs. immobilised due to desertion of Chinese crews.
(Commodore, Hong Kong, 1511HI/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)

Air Report.

Daily operational summary up to 1030Z/17/12. R/C Miri Area had object to locate and attack 13 warships reported in my Oprep 2 16/12. 1 aircraft carrier, 1 battleship or battle cruiser, 3 destroyers, stationary at Miri. 3 cruisers in position 120 miles W.N.W. Miri. Total aircraft involved 5 Hudsons 9 Glen Martins. A/S patrol for mine-layer Durian Strait. Aircraft involved 3 Sharks. Bombing attack carried out on ships Miri area no hits no near misses. Bombers saw at Miri 3 cruisers, 6 armed raiders or auxiliaries 1 tanker but no aircraft carrier. No fighters seen but fairly heavy A.A. fire from ships and land. Aircraft involved 6 Glen Martins and 5 Buffaloes from Sinkawang. O.C. Troops Kuching reports Japanese landings at Lutong and Baram point and 10 warships 1 tanker and 1 submarine at Miri Roads and 1 vessel off Lutong. Taiping and Kuantan being evacuated and demolished. Latter in view of imminent withdrawal of brigade. 4 Beauforts being returned to Australia, for crew training and conversion Laverton. (A.H.Q., Far East, 1823/17).

/Singapore...

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.- Contd.

Singapore D/Y Guard.

Your 0902Z/15. If possible Admiralty civilian employees forming Dockyard guard should be enrolled as part of local volunteer defence forces. If this cannot be arranged they may be temporarily enrolled in R.N.V.R. with suitable ranks and ratings and borne on ships books with existing rates of pay. If possible uniform should be supplied.
(Hd. of N.L. 2001A/17 to A.S. Singapore.)

Hong Kong, demand for surrender refused.

After short but relatively severe bombardment by enemy artillery and mortars coinciding with air raid Japanese sent across Staff Officers with flag of truce bringing written proposal for surrender on same lines as previous occasion in evident expectation our morale would be severely shaken. Letter was signed by G.O.C. Lt. Gen. Sakai and Naval C. in C. Vice Adm. Niimi. Envoy apparently genuinely surprised and disconcerted when proposal was summarily rejected. They left with hint that bombardment would be more indiscriminate then hitherto. Consider that renewal Japanese demand for surrender within such short period indicates that all is not well in their camp although it is difficult to say whether this is due to Chinese threat to their communications or to loss we have inflicted or to a combination of both. Morale civil population continues to improve and rice situation slowly getting better.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 2300/17 to W.O.)

PANSCANDIA.

My 2013A/16. If situation permits S.S. PANSCANDIA believed to be at Sourabaya should be sent to Balik Papan to load all stocks of Toluol fraction filling up with 87 - 90 O.N. and/or Benzex 96 O.N. for despatch to Australia. Master should be informed Charterers agree.
(D.T.D., 2307A/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

W.S. 12Z, W.S. 12X, D.M.1.

Following amended arrangements for W.S.12Z and W.S.12X are to be made.
2. Convoy of 4 ships NARKUNDA, AORANGI, SUSSEX, ABBEKERK, speed of slowest ship 16 knots capable of proceeding direct to the Far East from Durban, is to be formed as soon as transhipment from W.S.12Z already ordered has been completed.
(Convoy to be known as D.M.1, see 1931A/18.)

/3. This ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

W.S. 12Z,
W.S. 12X,
D.M. 1.
Contd.

3. This convoy will contain No. 232 fighter squadron of Hurricanes, complete with ground personnel, and comprising 51 Hurricanes and 18 pilots. Also 85 A.T. Regiment, 6 heavy A.A. Regiment, and 35 Light A.A. Regiment. Total personnel 3838. C. in C. E.F. IS requested to chose port of disembarkation.
4. Middle East portion of W.S. 12Z is to proceed to Suez and Indian portion known as W.S. 12ZB to Bombay as already arranged.
5. W.S. 12X carrying 18th Div. to continue to Bombay pending final decisions as to destination.
(A.C.N.S. (F), 2335A/17 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

WARSPITE.

A.M.2201/27/10 and B.A.R.M's 1720/5. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to make arrangements for WARSPITE to work up at Bermuda. 2. WARSPITE is to submit a programme through B.A.R.M. for passage to Bermuda. 3. B.A.D. Washington is requested to arrange transit of canal and supply of fuel at Balboa.
(V.C.N.S. 0104A/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., B.A.D., B.A.R.M., WARSPITE.)
A.M.0104/17. Please ask C.N.O. if he could help by providing destroyer A/S escort for WARSPITE on leaving Bremerton until well clear to sea, and again on approaching the Canal.
(V.C.N.S. 0138A/17 to B.A.D.)
My 1720/5. In view of altered conditions it is requested I may be given information with regard to route of WARSPITE on completion of her refit. Ship will be ready to leave U.S.A. on 10/1 but will not have carried out working up practice which would have been done at Honolulu and (?trials) involving about 6 days. Attention is invited to A.M.2201/27/10 regarding exchange of ammunition. Your 2242/9 not to C. in C. Med. Consider it most undesirable for ship to visit Vancouver. Such a visit will require local escort and will advertise sailing of ship.
(B.A.R.M. 1002R/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

ST.CLAIR.

To continue with S.C.59 to prudent limit and then return to St. Johns N.F. ST. CLAIR acknowledge when clear of Convoy.
(C.C.N.F. 0215Z/17 to BURNHAM, ST. CLAIR.)

H.X.165.
T.C.16
S.C.60
Air Cover.

Operations 16/12. 3 Hudsons 11 Br provided outer A/S patrol for H.X.165. Over convoy 0805 G.M.T., convoy badly disorganized over area 30 miles. Aircraft signalled stragglers position main convoy. 1100 G.M.T. convoy becoming organized. Left convoy 1530 G.M.T. position TCMV 30 30. One Bolingbroke 8 Br Squadron provided outer A/S patrol for H.X.165. Over convoy 1525 G.M.T. 46 ships forming up. Left convoy formed up at 1722 G.M.T. position TCPS 30 8 50 7. Patrol not continued due to weather. 2 Cansos (R.C.A.F.name for Catalinas) 116 Br Squadron provided outer A/S patrol for T.C.16. Over convoy 1250 G.M.T. JDPS 2000. U.S. escort joined convoy 1355 G.M.T. position JDPS 2000 course 117°, at 1852 G.M.T. left convoy. One Bolingbroke 8 Br attempted Harbour entrance and inner A/S patrol for S.C.60 at 1214 G.M.T., cancelled due to weather. One Bolingbroke 8 Br attempted outer A/S patrol for S.C.60 at 1606 G.M.T., cancelled weather.
(A.O.C. E.A.C. Halifax 0335G/17.)

/Midget ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Midget S/M.	Your 1246A/16, Midget submarine. Following details from U.S. Authorities. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 0952Q/17 to Admty.)
CHICOUTIMI	Your 1100Z/16. Return St. Johns N.F. (C.C.N.F. 0952Z/17 to CHICOUTIMI.)
DIOMEDE.	Your 0700Z/(?12). On return to Balboa you should complete with fuel and make contact with S.O.W.I. if DESPATCH is present. On completion, transit canal and proceed at best possible speed on 4 boilers to Bermuda via Windward Passage. Remaining 2 boilers, preferably A.1 and A.2 should be ready for examination on arrival at Bermuda, where defects will be taken in hand. S.O.W.I. inform Commandant (corrupt group) Naval district. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1042Q/17 to DIOMEDE.)
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	Your 1611/21. QUEEN OF BERMUDA will leave Norfolk on or about 28/12. C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to give route instructions. (B.A.R.M., 115OR/17 to Admty., C. in C. A.W.I.)
St. Lucia. U.S.Mission for Martinique.	Arrival and departure 17th under inter-allied orders U.S. MEMPHIS, CINCINNATI, JOUETT, DAVIS, CROWNINSHIELD. U.S. Naval Mission flying to Martinique today from Washington headed by Rear Adm. Horne to inspect ships, etc., as per recent agreement between Marshal Petain and Admiral Leahy. (R.N.O. St. Lucia 1230Q/17 to Admty.)
WYOMING (French)	Your 1519Q/27/11. Intercepted letter shows ship arrived Martinique prior to 3/12. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1249R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Washington Report.	Washops No.7. (i) Hawaii. 3 S/M contacts reported yesterday off Oahu but no ships were attacked, no results apparent from D/C attacks. (ii) Gilbert Island. Reference Washops No.4 para.(iv), now reported that ships which attacked Tarawa were A.M.C. (iii) West Indies. On 14/12 aircraft from U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN saw periscope in 016° 07' N. 060° 12' W. and dropped 4 bombs. Submarine was observed to (?start) steep dive. Two hours later BROOKLYN passed near fresh oil bubbles still coming to the surface. Submarine believed sunk. (J.S.M. Washington, 1337R/17 to Admty. etc.)

/DEVONSHIRE ...

MOST SECRET.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

DEVONSHIRE retubing. Following is a repetition of my 1404R/15 :- Your 1740/14/12. Tubes are available. (B.A.R.M. 1349R/17 to Admty.)

MARSDALE. My 2238Z/12 (?2232Z/12 intended) Docking MARSDALE unavoidably delayed until 21/12. Ship sailed for St. Johns N.F. on 17/12. Advantage will be taken of extra time to complete defects and boiler cleaning. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1359Z/17 to S.O.W.P.)

PANDORA. My 1344/5. PANDORA expects to leave Portsmouth N.H. for New London and working up practice 28/12 and sail for Halifax 8/1. C.O.A.C. Halifax and C.C. Newfoundland are requested to take action necessary as C. in C. A.W.I. 0912/4 and my 1500/2. (B.A.R.M. 1410R/17 to Admty.)

ARCHER. Is expected to complete trials P.M./23. Proposed she should then proceed to Jamaica to embark remaining Swordfish and carry out flying on and off trials. On completion it is desired ship should return to Norfolk to embark Martlets which will then be ready. ARCHER is to propose programme dates and C. in C. A.W.I. is requested to confirm visit to Jamaica is concurred in and issue route instructions. (B.A.R.M. 1420R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I., ARCHER.)

BITTERSWEET. Your 1455/16. Date is acceptable. Request definite date as soon as practicable. Ship to meet Pilot at usual R/V and time. (B.A.R.M. 1440R/17 to C.C.N.F.)

O.N.47. Task Unit 4.1.3 designated NIBLACK (Senior) BENSON H.P. JONES EDISON TARBELL. (Opnav 1513/17 to Admty.)

Shipping. Your 1725/15. Admty. 2334/15 and B.A.D. Washington 1521/16. Instructions have been given to N.C.S.O's West Coast Canada and U.S.A. to route British and Allied other than U.S. ships south of New Zealand when endurance permits. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1531Z/17 to N.Z.N.B.)

/Ship ...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Ship overdue. My 2126R/6 (N.T.in W.D.) New York agents cable Barbados Ship not arrived U.S. Port. Vessel held American Ship Warrant carried 1230 tons scrap iron Master and nine of crew Finns.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1632R/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. A. and W.I. B.A.D.)

U.S. Forces. Disposition 15/12.
(D.O.D.(F) 1636A/17 to Cs. in C.)
See Tiger Copy. (Note.- This signal is a repetition of Opnav 1655/16 in Lion Copy.)

ELIN K. Your 2212Z/8 and my 1508A/10. Norwegian ELIN K arrived Durban 10/12.
(D.T.D. 1724A/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

PENOLVER. Have you any news of PENOLVER due Hampton Roads 9/12 from O.N.37?
(D.T.D. 1725A/17 to D.N.I. Ottawa.)
Your 1725/17. PENOLVER has not arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2022Z/17 to Admty.)

Shipping. Information received indicates U.S. and U.S. owned and controlled merchant shipping being held for routeing instructions in ports of Far East and India and East Indies area. Request any and all such ships not required in war effort when loaded for U.S. East Coast ports be sailed via Cape Town using British routeings.
(Opnav 1826/17 to C in C. Asiatic Fleet, Alusna Colombo (for C. in C. East Indies) Alusna Cape Town.)
Pass to N.C.S.Os. Masters of ships bound for Australasia via Panama should be warned to have sufficient bunkers for a leg of 7800 miles from Panama.
(D.T.D. 1847A/17 to A.I.G.26.)

COLONIAL assistance. My 1913/15. Master Portuguese COLONIAL now reports conditions normal and assistance not required. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1901Z/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

SERAFIN TOPIC. Algiers 15/12 (B.2) S.S. COZALLA formerly SERAFIN TOPIC left Oran noon/14.
(B.A.D. 1917R/17 to Admty.)

/Japanese ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

Japanese aircraft. Following information on Japanese air tactics employed against H.M. ships and in attack on Pearl Harbour obtained from Alusna, Singapore, and Navy Dept.
(B.A.D. 2003R/17 to Admty. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Casablanca Intelligence. Casablanca 15/12 (B.2) PRIMAUGUET was brought alongside ex TAMARA now BOUGAINVILLE on 14/12 and transferred torpedoes and munitions. BOUGAINVILLE is to be used for convoy duty.
(B.A.D. 2009R/17 to Admty.) N.I.D. Comment. When previously fitted as an A.M.C. prior to Armistice, BOUGAINVILLE ex TAMARA ex VICTOR SCHOELCHER did not carry torpedo tubes.

PENOLVER. Your 1933A/18 November PENOLVER has not arrived this side.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2022Z/17 to Admty.)

Oil Ship for Martinique. My 1213R/11 (Re ship arrived Port Stanley 10/12 discharging oil-gaseous Standard Oil Co. Charter) St. Thomas reports ship being given clearance by U.S. Authorities for Guadaloupe and Martinique.
(S.O.I. Kingston 2142R/17 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

NEA HELLAS. Your 1941Z/16. Approved.
(D.O.D.(H) 2304/17 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Flag of A.C.A.S. Flag of (?Admiral Commanding Australian Squadron) hoisted in CANBERRA 15/12.
(A.C.N.B. 0531Z/17.)

/Use of ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - contd.

Use of Carriers. The lessons learnt in Spring exercise of 1939 and previous years in regard to Carrier operations should be invaluable in this Far Eastern War. We shall want all the Carriers you can spare and air Squadrons will need to be very quick off mark to defeat Japanese technique which seems to be efficient and very similar to ours. It remains to be seen whether U.S. Carriers technique will stand test of war.
(1st N.M., A.C.N.B., 0628Z/17 to Admty. for 1st S.L.)

AUSTRALIA. Arrived Fremantle 2001Z/15.
(A.C.N.B. 0711Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Your 0602Z/16. F.F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT is now under the strategic direction of C. in C. Eastern Fleet.
(D.O.D.(F) 1328A/17 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

MIGUEL DE LARRINAGA. — Arrived safely at Freetown on 14/12. Had reported being shelled by S/M on 2/12. 200 miles S.S.W. of Azores. (D.S.834, 17/12.)

BADALONA. (Spanish.) — Following for information. Addressed BEDROCK, (R) N.A. Madrid. BADALONA torpedoed and sunk by unidentified submarine 8 miles off Motril 13/12 at 0900. French was language spoken by submarine Officer who gave crew 10 minutes to abandon ship. Submarine then fired 2 torpedoes. (F.O.C.N.A., 0907A/17 to C. in C. Med., Admty.)

CASSEQUEL. (Portuguese torpedoed 15/12.) — CAMPION in 035° 40' N., 011° 30' W., at 0900/17 reports picking up of chief officer and 12 ratings from CASSEQUEL apparently torpedoed on Monday 15/12. Also report stop MARIA AMELIA at 0100/17 with 1731 men from CASSEQUEL on board. Area has been searched for further survivors. (F.O.C.N.A., 1258A/17 to Admty. (R) N.A.Lisbon.) Portuguese CASSEQUEL sunk by submarine believed German A.M./15 in approx., P. 34° N., 12° W., bound for Lobito with general cargo and some war materials. Can presence of British and Allied submarines be denied? (N.A. Lisbon, 1703/17 to Admty.(R) Gibraltar.)

Submarines Reported.

1943/16. — By D/F at 1943/16 G.M.T. position of U-boat was 32° 00' N - 36° 00' N., 11° 00' W - 14° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0038A/17 to Escorts of H.G.76, WISHART, VIDETTE.)

1818/16. — By D/F at 1818/16 G.M.T. position of U-boat was within 60 miles of 63° 00' N., 20° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 0039A/17 to ST. KENAN, BERWICK.)

0535. — D/F Bearing suggests Submarine in your area. (F.O.C.N.A., 0535A/17 to STORK, WISHART.)

0915A. — 1 S/M submerged bearing 190° distance 22 miles course 270° my position 34.44 N., 13.36 W. (STORK, 0915A/17 to Gib. C.C.O.)

/1306.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Submarines Reported.Contd.

1306. One submarine 060° 10' 180° 34.18N., 13.58W.
(DEPTFORD, 1306/17, to Gibraltar, Repeated STORK.)

1044Z. Unreliable D/F bearings indicate that UNA or P.35 may have been reported by U-boat at 1044Z/17.
(D.D.I.C. 1313A/17 to UNA, P.35.)

Balearic Is. My 1545/12. Investigation proceeding but nothing yet definitely ascertained. It seems probable that submarine has occasionally been fuelling and provisioning near Foradada from vessel proceeding Port Soller by night. Torpedo parts are being sent and assembled Port Soller.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1315/17 to Adty.)

Estimated approximate positions of U/Bs.
(D.D.I.C. 1422A/17, 1423A/17.)

1401Z. D/F bearings at 1401Z/17 indicate that Convoy H.G.76 was probably being shadowed by a U-boat.
(D.D.I.C. 1538A/17 to Escorts of H.G.76.)

1650. (Med.) 1 S/M 135 7 34.40 N 21.14 E.
(Med. A/C 1650/17 to 201 Group.)

Submarines Attacked.

By A/C. Am over enemy submarine on surface in position 46.35 N., 3.42 W. Attacked with depth charges result unknown.
(A/C T., 0025/17 to 19 Group.)
Course of S/M 310°, speed 12 knots.
(A/C T., 0025/17 to 19 Group.)
PPP 2 Subs course 210° 12 knots lost contact after attack.
(A/C using Callsign W7 JT 0115/17 to 9 (?19) Group.)
A/C. T/502. Position 235° St. Nazaire 80'
(D.S.834.)

By EXMOOR. U/B sunk. One Submarine bearing 050° distant 5 miles course 000° my position 34.19 N., 13.48 W.
(EXMOOR, 1314/17 to Gib. W/T.)

/My 1306A.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

17.12.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

My 1306A. S/Ms sunk by gunfire from BLANKNEY EXMOOR. My position 034° 18' 013° 58'.
(STORK, 1339A/17, to Gib. C.C.O.)
STORK's 1339A/17. Well done.
(C. in C. W.A., 1710A/17 to STORK, BLANKNEY, EXMOOR.)
My 1339A. U 131. 55 prisoners in EXMOOR and STANLEY. Prisoners confirm another U-Boat in vicinity. Am leaving BLANKNEY and EXMOOR to search until dark when they will sweep area (100%) to Gibraltar unless otherwise ordered. Weather report.
(STORK, 1519A/17, to F.O.C.N.A.)
I fully appreciate the important part played by AUDACITY and her aircraft in the destruction of the U-Boat today and deeply regret the death of the pilot, Sub. Lt. G.R.B. Fletcher. R.N.V.R.
(C. in C.W.A., 2311A/17, to AUDACITY.)

By BROOKLYN 14/12. — J.S.M. Washington 1337A/17. See America & West Indies.

By A/C. (Med.) — My 1520. (N.T. in W.D.) Have attacked enemy with bombs level, no hits, suspect damage.
(A/C 203 Sqdn., 1550/17 to 201 Group.)

By A/C? — BB Dropped 3 D.C's will remain 30 MINT 1629.
(Liverpool, 1630/17, to 15 Group H.Q.)
Position indecipherable.
BBBB, nothing observed, am returning to base.
(A/C R, 1645/17 to 15 Group H.Q.)

By MALLOW 19/10. — Their Lordships consider that your attack at 2046/19/10/1941, achieved the destruction of a German U-Boat. 2. They congratulate you your officers and ship's company on this success
(D.A/S.W 1702A/17 to MALLOW.)

By A/C. 2119/16. — Daily Summary Ops.(1) F.A.A. Swordfish A/S ASV search 15 miles around Cape Spartel 1830/16 to 0900/17. U-Boat attacked with 3 D/Cs (Mk.VIII) from 70 ft. Position 285° Spartel 9 at 2119/16 30 seconds after explosion periscope emerged 10 yds. ahead of disturbance.
(200 Group, 1730/17.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C of Brest at 1330A today shows PRINZ EUGEN still alongside but camouflage netting between ship and jetty has been removed. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are in their usual docks. The old French cruiser DUEYDON camouflaged as a HIPPER class cruiser was seen being towed in a south-easterly direction off the Anse de Poulmic. C. in C. H.F. considers that in the present strategic situation it is vitally important to continue the attacks on the enemy units at Brest with maximum strength.

The Russians are preparing 2 S/Ms for despatch to U.K.

4 corvettes are now available for Patrols "White" and "Black"; 2 are normally to be on patrol.

British Air Operations.

101 aircraft attacked Brest last night.

About 1300 today a total of 39 heavy bombers with fighter escort attacked the enemy cruisers at Brest.

Minihg

Enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying last night in the Tyne and Humber areas. The Tyne was re-opened at 1052 today and Blyth at 1341A.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Force K operated west of 19° 30' E., last night, to intercept the Tripoli convoy (see 17/12).

At 1158 today a force was reported in about 33° 15' N., 16° 50' E., covering 19 merchant ships which appeared to be bound for Tripoli.

URGE, UPHOLDER, P.31, UNBEATEN and SOKOL have been ordered to be in position tomorrow to intercept a force of 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 8 destroyers which were in 33° 32' N., 17° 34' E. steering 040° at 1700B today and are expected to return to Taranto or through the Straits of Messina tomorrow. All available surface forces are to leave Malta at 1800B to attack about 0200B tomorrow. Wellingtons are co-operating.

At 0600B today 2 large disabled destroyers were in 33° 50' N., 17° 30' E., being towed stern first towards Navarin.

Four Swordfish last night attacked a 4,000 ton tanker escorted by a destroyer off Kelibia and claim 2 hits which caused explosion and fire. The tanker could not be found today and is presumed sunk.

UPRIGHT reports that at 0212/13 in 40° 9' N., 17° 4' E., she fired 4 torpedoes at 2 northbound ships escorted by a destroyer, and secured 3 hits on the leading ship and one on the other.

Libya and Western Desert.

Heavy weather has caused some damage to small craft. Heavy scale of minelaying by aircraft continues at Tobruk.

East Indies.

The situation in Burma is causing anxiety. The Admiralty today asked C. in C. Med., whether he could despatch immediately one of the 6 Blenheim squadrons he is preparing for the Far East, without seriously affecting operations "Crusader" or "Acrobat".

/ROYAL SOVEREIGN...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Cont'd.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN escorting Convoy W.S.12 Z arrived at Durban early this morning.

China.

Hong Kong. After heavy bombardment the Japanese effected a landing in the early hours of today on the N.E. corner of Hong Kong island. Considerable damage was caused in Hong Kong today by shell fire, and air attacks were on a more intense scale than before.

Malaya. A War Council has been formed at Singapore.

N.E.I. There are no fixed defences in the Sunda Straits. The straits are being patrolled by the Dutch by 2 sloops and a flying boat. A cruiser, 2 leaders, 4 destroyers and 2 S/Ms which operate in the South Java Sea can assist and air forces might be available from Batavia.

Singapore. In reply to an offer of assistance from C. in C. India dated 0040/16 C. in C. F.E. today sent a message that more troops are required to turn the scale at Singapore and the time factor is likely to be all important.

New Zealand.

Butaritari appears now to be the Japanese air base in the Gilbert Is.

U-Boat Campaign.

STORK, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY, STANLEY and DEPTFORD escorting Convoy H.G.76 sank U-boats U.143 (?U 131) and U.434 today about 350 miles west of Cape St. Vincent. BLANKNEY has been damaged by ramming one of the U-boats. There is evidence that U.434 had contact with Spain.

/There...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-Boat Campaign. - Contd.

There appear to be 5 or 6 U-boats hunting H.G. 76 EXMOOR and BLANKNEY will have to leave shortly for fuel.

At 2230A today A/S trawler HAARLEM sighted and engaged a U-boat off Carnero; all available destroyers and M.Ls. from Gibraltar were sent to hunt, without sucess.

KINGSTON CYANITE attacked a U-boat contact with depth charges at 2355 today in 31° 18' N., 29° 26' E. The U-boat is thought to have been seriously damaged or sunk. C.S.15's force also attacked and possibly damaged or sank a U-boat at 2300 today in 31° 27' N., 29° 20' E,.

During the past 6 days 7 contacts on enemy S/M have occurred in the West Indies and along the Atlantic seaboard.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

GULLMAREN
TUNAHOLM

Swedish ships GULLMAREN and TUNAHOLM expected to leave Gothenburg for South America at 0900/19.
2. Speed 14 knots routed as in A.M. 1143/7/10.
3. Ships should not be molested if following this route.
(D.O.D.H. 1046 A/18).

R-class S/M's.

As result of inspection and subsequent full consideration of qualities of American R class I consider they are suitable for training service only. As submarines are urgently needed for this purpose early information is requested how many of this class will now be available for transfer.
If obtainable intend to employ two of these to relieve L.27 and O.15 in Canadian waters when the latter proceed to refit. A written report will be forwarded on the suitability of both R and S Class for our service and of the work entailed to fit then for such service.
(F.O.S. 1151A/18 to Admty.).

6th M.T.B. Flotilla.

A.M. 1524/12. The 6th M.T.B. Flotilla should be retained at Dover pending further instructions.
(D.D.O.D. C. 1728A/18 to V.A. Dover).

Co-operation with Russia.

Loan of Russian S/M's.

Your 1719A/25. Instructions have been given to Admiral Golovlo to prepare two (2) Soviet Submarines for despatch to U.K.
(Ad. Miles 1859D/18 to Admty.).

Movements.

P.38.

Capt. S.5. 2050/17. My position is 049° 40' N. 006° 56' W. course 085°. E.T.A. outer end Q Z S 278 1100/18.
(P.38 0001/18).
My 2050A/17. Complete your passage on surface at your discretion and R/V with trawler CORNELIAN at 1000/18 at end Q Z S.
(Capt. S.5.0245A/18 to P.38.).

LEDA.

LEDA sailed to Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0045C/18).

WESTCOTT

Sail WESTCOTT in accordance with Admiralty 2027A/17

/routed....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

WESTCOTT -Contd.

routed as follows to Gibraltar.
(C.in C. W.A. 1048A/18 to Capt. D. Londonderry).
Sailed WESTCOTT in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1048A/18. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1500A/23. On arrival boiler hours of WE3TCOTT will be approx. 600.
(Capt. D. Londonderry 1914A/18).

AGAMEMNON

AGAMEMNON expects to be ready to sail p.m./19 for Port Z.A. Request surface escort. If none available propose to sail AGAMEMNON with Fighter protection only.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1144A/18).

P.36.

Cancel para (1) of my 1803A/16 and substitute: intend to sail P.36 passing Needles at 1615/18 diving by day routed as follows to (F) 043° N. 012° 15' W. thence to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A.
P.36 has orders to remain East of 005° W.until 2000A/19.
(Capt. S.5 1203A/18).

FAULKNOR
FORESIGHT
MATABELE.

After refuelling FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, and MATABELE are to proceed to Scapa at best speed that endurance and weather permit.
2. F.O.C.N.A. and C.in C. W.A. are requested to route them accordingly.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1222A/18 to D.S.).
Onward route to Scapa as follows.
(C.in C. W.A. 2201A/18 to FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE).

NORFOLK

NORFOLK arrived Hvalfjord 1530.
(A.C.I.C. 1728N/18).

ALAUNIA
CHITRAL
WORCESTERSHIRE

A.M. 1307A/11.
ALAUNIA, CHITRAL, and WORCESTERSHIRE will call at Freetown.
Amend speed of slowest ship to read 13½ knots.
Ref. para. 4 delete WIVERN.
(D.O.D.H. 1729A/18).

RODNEY

The strategic situation has undergone great changes since I saw you and I much regret it will not be possible to spare RODNEY to give leave before end of January. H.M.S. RODNEY will be withdrawn to Scapa soon for practice and to get stores and provisions.
(C.in C. H.F. 2042A/18 to RODNEY).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Exercise "Striker".

C.in C. Home Forces has been informed that you will render assistance to Army Commands with exercise "Striker" and papers are being sent.
(A.C.N.S.H. 0200A/18 to C's in C. Portsmouth, Nore, Plymouth).

Engagement on 17/12.

SPEEDY arrived at Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1129C/18 to Admty. Rep. C.in C. H.F.).
My 2147C/17 KENT and 2 Russian Destroyers arrived at Murmansk nothing (?sighted). Admiralty pass to C.in C. H.F.C.S.18 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1301C/18 to Admty.).
HAZARD and SPEEDY while carrying out A/S patrol were in action against enemy in position 10° Cape Gorodetsky 14 between 1840 and about 1910/17. Only gun flashes were sighted, but evidence indicates enemy consisted of 2 or more destroyers. SPEEDY reports one officer saw an E boat. Enemy opened fire at about 4,000 yards before being sighted and straddled. SPEEDY first salvo. Second salvo put after guns out of action and other hits were subsequently obtained. Torpedo track sighted close astern of SPEEDY.
SPEEDY only fired one round from foremost gun but states HAZARD opened fire. HAZARD and SPEEDY retired at once under cover of smoke and lost contact with each other.
SPEEDY has returned to Murmansk with following damage: after gun out of action. Wardroom deckhead badly holed. Fore gun instruments shot away. Motor boat burnt out.
Casualties. One Acting Leading Seaman died of wounds 18/12 and one Ordinary Telegraphist wounded. Names.
HAZARD has remained at sea and has not reported any damage.
Intend SPEEDY to return to U.K. with Q.P.4. in place of LEDERER. It is necessary for SEAGULL to return to U.K. as she has defects and is in need of overdue refit. Admiralty pass to C.in C. H.F. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1640C/18 to C.in C. H.F.).

Patrols A and B.

VIVACIOUS and QUORN carry out Patrols A and B respectively tonight in accordance with my 1830A/11.
Proceed to arrive on Patrol at 2100.
Trawlers will be stationed in Q Z S 277 from 59A Buoy to Sheringham inclusive.
(C.in C. Nore. 1140A/18).
Departure at 1645 QUORN to carry out patrol B.
(F.O. Humber 1701A/18).

/Denmark.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1941. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations -Contd.

Denmark Strait and Iceland Faroes Patrols.	My 0106A/14. ANEMONE, ABELIA, VERONICA now available Hvalfjord and SWEETBRIAR is on passage. (2) 2 Corvettes should normally be on patrol. Request you will arrange their disposition. W/T watch as for Northern patrol trawlers. Continuous Watch if operators are available. Signal for Corvettes should be passed by direct method. (3) Suggest if Admiral Giffen is agreeable his cruisers should be used to strengthen your patrol when necessity arises. (4) Intend initially that RENOWN and RODNEY should concentrate with KING GEORGE V and VICTORICUS. (C.in C. H.F. 1228A/18 to C.S.1.).
North Russia S/M Patrols.	Cancel my 1759A/2. It is now intended to sail STURGEON on about 27/12 for patrol then North Russia and TRIDENT on about 15/1 direct to North Russia. SEALION and SEAWOLF leave North Russia on about 21/12 and 5/1 respectively for patrol and to arrive Holy Loch about 9/1 and 23/1 respectively. (F.O.S. 1343A/18).
Operation "Anklet".	Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by STELLA PEGASI at 0930/19 to 060° 52' N. 001° 02' 30" W. E.T.A. 0300/20. Then unescorted diving by day at C.O's discretion through position. (A) 063° N. 001° E. (B) 066° N. 007° E. to area of operations North and East of position. Request T.B.R. as follows. (A.C.O.S. 1400A/18).
East Coast Patrols.	Patrols tonight Thursday. 2 Motor Gunboats Q.E.4A shifting to Q.E.6A at 0100/19. 2 M.L's Q.E.6A shifting to Q.E.8 at 0100/19. 4 M.G.B's in the vicinity of 052° 30' N. 3° E. (C.in C. Nore. 1521A/18).
Landing Exercise.	A landing exercise employing 4 Eurekas has been arranged by N.O.I.C. Dartmouth in conjunction with 209 B.D.E. for tonight between 1900 and 0100 near Start Point. (C.in C. Plymouth 1544/18).
Biscay S/M Patrol. REGENT. H.43.	F.O.S. 1153A/17 cancel para. A. It is not anticipated that this position will be occupied by any submarine. REGENT if fit for patrol will probably be required to fill one of the numbered positions in Bay of Biscay, (F.O.S. 1724A/18).

/Expect.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. REGENT. H.43. -Contd.

Expect to arrive Falmouth with H. 43 0900A/19. (BREDA 1730A/18).

Aux. Patrols.

Brightlingsea Auxiliary Patrols withdrawn owing to shortage of ships due to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1810A/18).

British Air Activity.

A/C for Operation "Anklet".

Reference aircraft detailed operation "Anklet", R/C Vestfjiord from Tranoy (68° 11' N. 15° 40' E) to lat. 66° 30' N. is requested as soon as possible after daylight on D1 and D2 days. Object is to report enemy surface ships and convoys. Aircraft should keep to the East side of the Fiord as H.M. ships will be operating in the centre and West side. Date of D1 will be communicated later giving about 4 days warning. Request type of aircraft may be communicated. (R.A.D.H.F. 0058/18 to H.Q.C.C.).
Your 0058/18. Type of aircraft is Liberator. Request arrangements are made for Captain of Aircraft to meet your Staff. (H.Q.C.C. 1120/18 to R.A.D.H.F.).
(1) One Liberator from each addressee to move to Prestwick as soon as weather permits.
(2) Probable duration of attachment 28/12.
(3) A.O.C. 18 Group to arrange briefing of crews for operation "Anklet".
(H.Q.C.C. 2010A/18 to 15 Group, 18 Group).

Brest.

I am more than glad to hear of the air attacks on ships at Brest. I consider with present strategic situation it is vitally important to continue these attacks with maximum strength. (C.in C. H.F. 1411A/18 to Admty.).

Bombing restrictions.

My 1348/17. Request bombing restrictions between 1745/19 and 0900/20 in area bounded by following positions.
(A) 50° N. 6° 30' W.
(B) 46° 30' N. 5° 30' W.
(C) 46° 30' N. 4° 30' W.
(D) Ushant.
(E) Lizard.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1650/18 to H.Q.C.C.).
Institute surface bombing restrictions as above (H.Q.C.C. 2050/18 to 15, 16, 18, 19, Groups).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary;

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy "Major".

Following received.
Enemy aircraft are attacking "Major". 190 Deli 65 330 17.
(?AURORA 0847/18).

Faroes attacked on 17/12.

Enemy aircraft attacked Trangisvaag and shipping in Skaalefjord 1230/17. No casualties or damage. British fighter patrol in the vicinity unable intercept as no means available inform it whereabouts of enemy aeroplanes.
(O.C. Troops, Faroes 1130/18 to War Office).

Enemy Patrol. Convoy H.G.76.

Four F.W. aircraft operated in a South Westerly direction from Bordeaux to an area off the West coast of Portugal. There were indications that convoy H.G.76 was sighted.
(D.D.I.C. 1836A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Mining.

Blyth and Tyne.

My 2234/17 and 2346/17. Expect ports open by 1300 today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0940/18).
My 2145/17. Port of Tyne open. Ships to keep strictly to centre line of Q Z S 124.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1052/18).
My 2143A/17. Blyth port open.
(N.O.I.C. Blyth 1341A/18).
Amend my 1052/18 to read as near to centre of Q Z S 124 as possible.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1605/18 to Admty.).

Thames Estuary.

One magnetic mine detonated at 1325/17. Details.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1120/18).

Approaches to White Sea.

Do you consider enemy surface forces encountered by HAZARD and SPEEDY were engaged in minelaying?
(A.C.N.S.H. 1220A/18 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Your 1220A/18. There is evidence to show mines were being laid but the position is suspicious. LEDA and HAZARD have been ordered to meet P.Q.6 in 068° 10' N. 041° 22' E. and sweep them in with double Oropesa.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1938C/18 to Admty.).

N.P.7A.

Intend to carry out operation N.P.7A tonight.
(V.A. Dover 1344A/18).

Operation Q O

9th M/S Flotilla completed two laps, four mines exploded one British M mark one clearly identified. Gap first and second days sweeping now cleared.
(M/S 9 1746A/18 to C.in C. Nore.).

/My.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation, Q.O. (Contd.)

My 1645A/17. Sweep completed to latitude 051° 46' N. Suggest S.O. 13th M.F. remains in harbour tomorrow to refit Minesweeper's gear, anchoring at Cork dusk 19th sailing a.m./20th to arrive in area at daylight. Sweep commencing to northward will then be carried from 1 mile to eastward of C one, starting from latitude 051° 45' N. which position must be accurately established to avoid sweeping into line B.S.60. Alternatively if considered desirable to enter area at safest period sweep cannot be commenced until 1330.
(S.O. 13th M/F., 1900A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)
My 1746. Propose remaining in harbour tomorrow 19th. 2 ships of 9th M/S. F. have major defects and all short of Dan buoys and range setting M/S stores.
(S.O. 9th M/S. F., 2017A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)
My 1746 and S.O. 13th M.S. Flotilla's 1900A/18. Propose both Flotillas sail from Cork at 0530/20 arriving position "A" at 0830. 9th M.S. F. then sweeping as follows. Details.
(S.O. 9th M/S. F., 2215A/18.)
Operation Q.O. will not take place tomorrow.
(C. in C. Nore, 2230A/18.)

Enemy Intelligence.

German Warship movements.

(1) It appears Germans planted rumour in certain quarters of Stockholm about December 10th that TIRPITZ had sailed for Norway and Atlantic.
(2) Following reports of TIRPITZ and other warships now received. (a) between Lubeck and Gotenhaven one battleship believed TIRPITZ on December 6th carried out gunnery exercises at wireless control target. Straddles were observed on target at estimated range of 16,000 yards. Target then obscured itself with smoke. (b) Swinemunde 9/12 one battleship believed TIRPITZ one KOLN Cruiser and 2 destroyers. (c) Between Rixhoft and Hela on 11/12 one battleship and 2 cruisers one of which believed HIPPER were exercising with U-Boats in vicinity. (d) Kiel 14/12 TIRPITZ reported in bay.
Above reported by different trained observers graded B.2. Sources I.D.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1631/18.)

/Enemy ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Enemy shipping.

(1) Recent losses.
(a) December 3rd southbound convoy approaching Stavanger lost by air attack one German steamer sunk, one had (? machinery) damage, two German and one Norwegian ran ashore.
(b) December 3rd Norwegian VESTRIA was on fire off Norwegian Coast.
(c) December 4th convoy from Stavanger lost by air attack, one sunk, one had machinery damage and two ran ashore.
(d) December 4th BLACK PRINCE newly arrived at Danzig as accommodation vessel, set on fire by sabotage and destroyed. All C.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1809/18.)
O.I.C. Comment. Paras. (a) and (b) - Attacks by British aircraft were carried out on 3rd and 4th December in this area and hits claimed on at least one ship each day.

Brest.

Preliminary report of photographic R/C of Brest at 1330A/18 shows PRINZ EUGEN still alongside but camouflage netting between ship and jetty has been removed. GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are in usual docks. Old French battleship GUEYDON camouflaged as HIPPER class cruiser was seen being towed in south-easterly direction off the Anse Du Poulmic.
(D.D.I.C., 1847A/18.)

2 Vessels off Gris Nez.

R.D.F. plotted 2 enemy vessels larger than E-Boats passing Gris Nez eastward at 2215, speed 30 knots, proceeding between Le Dyck and Outer Ruytingen.
(V.A. Dover, 2329A/18.)

Navigational.

Workington.

1623A/16. Port of Workington is closed after 18/12 until further notice.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0419A/18.)
Until further notice Port of Workington is closed from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before sunrise.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1201A/ 8.) Note: Referred to in Liverpool's 1623A/16/12.

Drifter off Naze Tower.

Drifter SILVER DAWN is being anchored in position 075° distant 7.4 miles from The Naze Tower from 1000 B.S.T. today until 1100 B.S.T. 19th. Request shipping be warned to keep well clear of her or to proceed at slow speed past her. FRANKLIN will remain close in attendance.
(FRANKLIN, 0830/18.)

/Ice in ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational - Contd.

Ice in Denmark Straits.

Thick ice in 067° 19' N. 024° 48' W. at 0300Z/18 running south for unknown but probably short distance and north for 15 miles and then 055° for 20 miles. Aircraft reported similar trend to latitude 068° 20' N.
Examine ice in Gap. Carry out short patrol to eastward of gap. Whenever position is accurately known take soundings in area of your patrol in position neighbourhood of minefield.
(C.S.1, 0859Z/18 to BERWICK.)
My 0859Z/18. Correct last sentence to read: Your patrol and in the neighbourhood of Minefield.
(C.S.1, 1512Z/18 to BERWICK.)

B.7 Buoy.

89 Q.Z.H. Nore Area. B.7 light buoy damaged, and light extinguished.
(Hydrographer, 1837A/18.)

54 G. Buoy.

90 QZH Yarmouth area. No. 54 G light buoy reported extinguished.
(Hydrographer, 1838A/18.)

Casualties and Defects.

NEWMARKET.

My 2000A/17. NEWMARKET did not sail owing to defects.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0215A/18.)

H. 43.

Port circulator driving shaft sheared inside armature end of bearing.
Suspect repair impossible.
Consider proceed on patrol with starboard circulator only unjustifiable risk.
Intend to proceed to Falmouth with BREDA.
Request spare armature rushed there. Estimate it can be shipped in a few hours.
(H.43, 0800A/18 to Capt. S.7.)

WELSHMAN.

Twice during last day delays occurred due to Plommet weights releasing while mines were moving aft. Details.
Consider that expert advice and dockyard assistance should be afforded at first opportunity.
(WELSHMAN, 0900/18.)

OBERON.

Have following defects. Details.
Cannot view fortnights patrol with confidence.
Request instructions.
(OBERON, 1040A/18 to Capt. S.7.)

/Your ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

OBERON. (Contd.)

Your 1040A/18. After reaching Wolf Rock return to Rothesay escorted by CUTTY SARK. (Capt. S.7, 1631A/18 to OBERON.)
After reaching Wolf Rock you are to escort OBERON back to Rothesay. (Capt. S.7, 1632A/18 to CUTTY SARK.)
CUTTY SARK escorting OBERON leaving vicinity of Wolf Rock 1900A/18 for Rothesay. Speed of Advance 9.5 knots. Request fighter protection. (Capt. S.7, 2251A/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BOADICEA.

P.C.S. 058° 47' N. 007° 58' W., 302°, 15 knots. Consider ship capable of completing convoy and am joining O.N.S.47. Heavy vibrations at high speed. Propeller certainly damaged and shaft possibly damaged. (BOADICEA, 1301A/18.)
BOADICEA's 1301A/18. Request arrangements to dock BOADICEA on return from present escort duty about 28/12 and that spare propellers may be made available. (C. in C. W.A., 1519A/18.)

FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS collision on 16/12.

At about 0020/16 ILLUSTRIOUS ran up on FORMIDABLE. Port foremost corner of flight deck hit starboard after corner of FORMIDABLE's flight deck. Following damage occurred. Estimated time for repairs 2 to 3 weeks. Fighting efficiency unimpaired.
ILLUSTRIOUS. Estimated time for repairs 3 to 4 weeks. Ship can operate aircraft and steam 26 knots in moderate weather. Armament undamaged. Both ships have sustained other damage from heavy weather repairable within period mentioned above. (FORMIDABLE, 1631Z/18.)

SWEETBRIAR.

Have defective boiler room fan and steering (corrupt group). Damage to mess deck fittings. E.T.A. 2200/18. (SWEETBRIAR, 1700N/18 to A.C.I.C.)

H.34.

Partial seizure in steering transmission box. Intend to proceed Falmouth for repairs in company with ALECTO. (H. 34, 1810A/18 to F.O.S.)

MELPOMENE.

MELPOMENE has developed a rumbling in after Turbo main circulator impellor. Docking may be necessary. Propose that ship returns to Sheerness immediately for repairs. Ship is urgently required for operational duties. (N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1840A/18 to C. in C. Nore.)

/MACBETH ...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

MACBETH (Damaged 11/12.)

Leave tow off Belfast and proceed Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 1920A/18 to PIMPERNEL.)
Please convey to the Captain, Officers and ships company of the ZWARTE ZEE my heartiest congratulations on their particularly fine achievement in towing MACBETH to the U.K.
(C. in C. W.A., 2312A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
The location and escort of MACBETH was a fine bit of work and reflects great credit on all concerned.
(C. in C. W.A., 2319A/18 to PIMPERNEL.)

NIDARDAL.

27 survivors landed today ex NIDARDAL. Being sent U.K. in S.D.18. Including (1) 2 Finnish (Aliens). (2) 2 Army Gunners.
(N.O.I.C. Iceland, 2332A/18.)

REGENT.

Request REGENT may be sailed for Portsmouth for repairs.
(F.O.S., 2147A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Shipping and Convoys.

PRAGUE.

My 2242A/15 and 2240A/15. S.S. PRAGUE delayed. ST. ALBANS with VIVACIOUS in company to H.3 buoy sailing independently.
(C. in C. Nore, 1040A/18.)
VESPER is to leave Sheerness at 0850 tomorrow and R/V with S.S. PRAGUE off "J" buoy at 0915.
2. Proceed by swept channels and Q Z S 287 and 277 to H.3 buoy when VESPER is to hand over escort to ACTIVE about 1815/19th and proceed to join F.S. 76 as additional escort to Sheerness. ACTIVE is to proceed with PRAGUE in company by swept channels to junction of Q Z S 243 and 161 where S.S. PRAGUE is to part company for Aberdeen and ACTIVE proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. Nore, 1654A/18.)

H.X.163.

My P.C.S. at 1230A 058° 20' N. 007° 29' W., 195°, 13 knots. Expect join H.X.163 in North Channel.
(HIBISCUS, 1207A/18.)

Convoys B.B.(Fast) and H.M.

Cancel my 1915A/15.
1. In order to provide for a fast convoy with ships ex H.X. convoys from Belfast to Bristol Channel ports, it is intended to form a fast B.B. Convoy consisting of these ships sailing from Belfast at about 0600 proceeding at it's

/ best ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoys B.B.(Fast) and H.M. (Contd.)

best speed, which should be about 9 knots or over.
2. Any ship from Holyhead capable of this convoy speed should be sailed to R/V with this B.B.(Fast).
3. Other ships of insufficient speed should remain at Holyhead and be sailed to R/V with the next following B.B., which will be sailed as heretofore from Belfast.
4. In order to relieve the possible congestion at Holyhead caused by the hold up of the slower ships mentioned in para. 3, it is intended (as an experiment) to run an H.M. convoy from Holyhead to Milford Haven as a reverse convoy to the present M.H. convoy: the escorts being provided by the Holyhead Milford Haven escort forces.
5. The H.M. Convoy will consist of coasters and will be under the operational control of Holyhead.
6. It is requested that F.O.I.C. Belfast and N.O.I.C. Holyhead will commence sailing these convoys as and when necessary.
(C. in C. W.A., 1312A/18.)

A/C communication.

To facilitate communications between our A/C when meeting Convoys and a Convoy Escort vessel, the latter should open out distance the Convoy to about three miles should A/C wish to communicate.
This should permit the A/C to circle the escort and keep outside the 1500 yards range of M/V's while passing the signal.
(C. in C. W.A., 1315A/18.)

E.N. Convoy.

Your 1227. E.N. Convoy leaves Methil 2000. Warn ships in convoy to keep well to starboard in vicinity of Rath Grounds North.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 1501/18 to LIDDESDALE, Reptd. VANITY and JAN VAN BRAKEL.)

T.C. 16.

My 2146A/17. NEWMARKET not available owing to defect. Escort of 3 destroyers only is accepted.
(C. in C. W.A., 1520A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

O.G. Convoys.

In view of 573 A.Z. intend to stop signalling estimated time of crossing 11° W. W.A.C.I's part 110 subject to your concurrence.
(C. in C. W.A., 1648A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/B.B.T. 37 ...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

B.B.T. 37. — Intend sailing H.M. Tug SEA GIANT with B.B.T.37 at 2100/19. E.T.A. Scapa 1100/20.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1721/18.)

O.N.48. — Rescue ship ZAAFAREN is not to be sailed with Convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 1830A/18 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Russian M/V. — One Russian Merchant ship escorted by 2 Russian A/S Trawlers will pass through your area tonight from direction of Kanin to Gorodetsky.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 1955C/18 to LEDA.)

Norwegian M.F.V's. — Your 0955N/13 and A.M. 2053A/15. Request names of Norwegian M.F.V's to be replaced by 5 Icelandic vessels.
(D.S.V.P., 2124A/18 to A.C.I.C.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Italian Repatriation from E. Africa.

Ref. A.M.2006A/4 para. 11 and 8. Italian Govt. have now been informed that no letters or packages can be carried in these ships either on outward or homeward journeys.
2. In view of possibility of smuggling of correspondence, ships and crews should be searched as far as may be possible at Gibraltar. Any matter found should be handed to Imperial Censorship, Gibraltar or to the Chief Censor at any other ports of call. S.N.O. of each ship should be instructed to collaborate with appropriate authorities with a view to prevention of illicit mails being landed or brought on board.
(Head of M. 0920A/18 to F.O.C.N.A., Cs. in C. Med., S.A. E.I. etc.)

Small Craft.

Aircraft report small craft resembling Dutch Skoot about 30 miles north of (?Farilhoes) Island steering 200° at 1045/16th.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0936A/18 to URSULA.)

Lisbon.

My 2103/17. Do you agree that I hold sufficient tonnage here to evacuate British Community if necessary?
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1001/18 to Admty.)
N.I.D. Comment. No indication from either N.A. or Ambassador that circumstances have arisen which call for the above signal. N.C.S.O. informed in this sense and instructed to clarify.
In the event of evacuation ships will sail for (?Boston) dispersing at 15 mile intervals on either side following route :-
(C) 034° 50' N. 020° W.
(D) 034° 025°
(E) 036° 040°
(F) 037° 30' 060°
Ships from Oporto
(V) 034° 50' N. 025° W.
(W) 035° 50' N. 031° W. thence great circle to destination.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1759/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 1001/18 not to F.O.C.N.A. and your 2103/17. No intimation received from Ambassador that situation is as grave as would appear from these messages. You should ask Consul General to consult Ambassador with a view to obtaining confirmation of situation. 2. Shipping now in Lisbon and due to load at other ports should not be held unless F.O.C.N.A. considers U-boat situation requires it. Similarly ships loading at Lisbon should be sailed for Gibraltar as arranged by F.O.C.N.A. unless special escort to effect junction with H.G.77 can be provided.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1936A/18 to Consul, Lisbon, F.O.C.N.A.

/There ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Lisbon - contd.

There is no indication from either Naval Attache or Ambassador that circumstances have arisen which call for your 1001/18. Hasten reply to my 1801/16.
(D.N.I. 1937A/18 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon.)

PLUTON (Spanish)

My 1736A/17. PLUTON was sighted at 1445/17 in 35.34 N. 06.28 W. Ship refused to disclose destination on the grounds of being a warship under Government orders. Course steered indicated bound for Canary Islands.
(S.O.I. Gib., 1052A/18 to N.A. Madrid.)

MALAYA.

Will be carrying out gunnery practice in area between Gibraltar and 20 miles to Eastward a.m./19, returning to harbour p.m.
(S.O. Force H., 1141A/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

FAULKNOR
FORESIGHT
MATABELE.

FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE arrived Ponta Delgada 1430 G.M.T./18.
(N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1356/18 to S.O.I. Gib.)
N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1204A/13. For 18/12 read 19/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1631A/18 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.)
After refuelling proceed Scapa at best speed that endurance and weather permits passing through position (A) 37.40 N. 25.10 W. (B) 45.00 N. 21.00 W. (2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to supply onward route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1642A/18 to FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE.)
A.M.1222A/18. As there appear to be 5 or 6 U-Boats hunting H.G.76 propose FAULKNOR and FORESIGHT after fuelling at Ponta Delgada should join H.G.76 if they can be spared. EXMOUTH and BLANKNEY will have to leave H.G.76 shortly for fuel. (F.O.C.N.A. 1708A/18 to Admty.)
Your 1708/18. Regret these ships cannot be spared. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2323A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0.24.

Cancel W.M.P.12 Para 18 Leave patrol after dark 19th routed - E.038° 35' 009° 00' E. F.038° 30' 004° 00' E. G. 038° 00' 001° 00' E. H.036° 13' 002° 35' W. thence direct Gibraltar to arrive 1000A/23. 2. Proceed on surface at your discretion when West of 007° E.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1406A/18 to S/M 0.24.)

/KINGSBOROUGH ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

KINGSBOROUGH. N.C.S.O. Lisbon's 2103/17. In absence of any cautionary warning from Madrid or Admiralty intend sailing KINGSBOROUGH for Cadiz today Thursday.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1528A/18 to Admty.)

COZALLA. Your 1006A/15 America report "so far no further trace of Steamer COZALLA."
(Greenleaves, 1800/18 to S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

UNA. My 1406A/16 (N.T.in W.R.) Escort is SPIREA. Report if unable to comply within one hour. Several U/Bs operating in Western Approaches.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1906A/18 to UNA.)

IMPERIALIST. Your 1124A/16. Operation completed at 1820/17.
(IMPERIALIST 2000A/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Lack of Oil, Spain. My 1101/28 and your 1642A/12. Ministry of Marine States Campsa figures are probably correct but Navy cannot get anything like monthly amount mentioned. 2 cruisers and 11 destroyers in commission now immobilised for lack of fuel having only small amounts being kept for emergency. Naval stock at Ferrol less than 1000 tons used for training ships JUAN SEBASTIAN DE ELCANO and NEPTUNO and for trials of minelayer EOLO. In desperation owing difficulties with Campsa he proposed sending Naval oiler PLUTON to Venezuela but has suspended voyage pending full knowledge who is at war with whom in South America. Reason for taking crude to Tenerife was because he can deal with Cepsa who can only buy crude in Venezuela. Refined in Venezuela can only be bought by Biscsa who are supposed to recommend if voyage is revived that we offer no objections. It would give me weapon with which to obtain any oil secretly you wish.
(N.A. Madrid, 2020/18 to Admty.)

0.24. Your 1406A/18. Patrol off Ustica in accordance with Capt (S) 10 1317B/5. Left area at 1700A/17 intend diving by day during passage. Position at 1900A/18 (? 038°) 37' (?009°) 45'. Request further orders.
(0.24, 2100B/18 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/French ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

French Shipping. Gibraltar 1527 Minesweeper ENGAGEANTE, S.S. CEVENNES, THISBE, STRASBOURGEOIS, S.MARTIN LEGASSE, Trawlers MEN GWEN, JOSEPH ELISE, KERPAPE, all laden eastbound.
(S.O.I. Gib., 2145A/18 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
Passings on 16/12. See D.O.R. 18/12.

WISHART. WISHART passes through 034° 08' 009° 44' W. at 2000A/18 thence Gibraltar 15 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2206A/18 to UNA.)

BLANKNEY EXMOOR. BLANKNEY and EXMOOR in 036° 14' N. 014° 40' W. at 1430A/18 to Gibraltar 18 knots. They know your position.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2336A/18 to UNA, P.35.)

South Atlantic.

"Q" Reports KING WILLIAM NAILSEA MOOR Are you satisfied with KING WILLIAM's cancellation of her QQQQ message observing that it would not appear to have the DR prefix? Have you any further news of NAILSEA MOOR?
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0151A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)
Your 0151A/18. Consider KING WILLIAM's cancellation genuine. NAILSEA MOOR appears to be safe, see her 2030/17.
(C. in C. S.A., 0909Z/18 to Admty.)

W.S.12 Z. Durban arrivals ROYAL SOVEREIGN, MILFORD, ASTER and MARGUERITE escorting Convoy W.S.12 Z.
(N.L.O. Durban 0258Z/18 to Admty. etc.)

ANN SKAKEL ELIN K. Your 1604/15. ANN SKAKEL arrived Durban 13/12, departed 15th, due Laracfi 1/1. ELIN K arrived Durban 10/12.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0905Z/18.)

Lagos Black Out. Your 26, request relaxation Admiralty order at Lagos. Nigerian Govt. regulations re Passive Defence Lighting Restrictions are strict and considered adequate. Besides being further cause for illness no useful purpose served by complete black out in Naval Shore Establishments only. For alarm whole city is darkened instantly by pulling main power switch.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 0933Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

/22 A/S ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

22 A/S Group. Your 2026/2. Union Govt. have extended period of loan of 22nd A/S group for one year. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1045Z/18 to Admty).

U.S. ships suspect list. A.M.1846/16. When may suspect list for U.S. merchant ships be expected as it is possible that there may be main Irish W/T operators and even Masters who should not be issued with C.B.s. and S.Ps. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1109Z/18 to Admty.)

Pan-American Conference. The Pan American Conference Chancellors to consider defence Western Hemisphere and economic measures will be held at Rio de Janeiro on 15/1. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1206Z/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

Local Protection. Presume your 1811/17 is reply to A.M.1809/14 Para. 3. (D.O.D (F) 1240A/18 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: Yes. (C. in C. S.A., 0950Z/19, 0002Z/21)

U.S. Ships off Liberia. Your 1701A/17. Importance of these ships is fully realised and they will be given as much protection as possible. Ships lying in an open anchorage for long periods, however, can never be considered fully safe and suggest attention of U.S. authorities should be drawn to this. (C. in C. S.A., 1455Z/18 to Admty-).

Routeing of M/Vs. Your 1755Z/5/11/41. Propose suspending Zig-Zag South of 10° South. If concurred in request Admiralty will initiate action. (C. in C. S.A., 1533Z/17 to Admty).

Force "Q" Request report whether ships of Force Q at present at Freetown are getting their bottoms foul and what you consider to be the present maximum sea-going speed of each unit. (A.C.N.S. (F), 1703A/18 to C. in C. S.A.)

KAJAK. Your 1951A/4 and my 2127Z/12 KAJAK will leave Montevideo 0700 G.M.T./19 for Capetown. She will fly Russian flag when she is getting out to sea. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2233Z/18 to Admty).

AIDA LAURO (Italian). My 2153Z/10 AIDALAURO has not transferred to Brazilian Flag. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2239Z/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations.

A/C torpedo attack.	Have attacked enemy with torpedoes. (Med., A/C N., 0431B/18 to Med., Authority (Call sign R7M)).
Air R/C	A.M. R/C from Malta between 036° 20' N., and 033° 30' N., and between 020° 00' E., and 017° 00' E., and clearing search for BRECONSHIRE. (V.A., Malta, 0616B/18 to F.O. 15th C.S., S.O. Force K). Add to my 0616B/18. A.M.R/C Eastward from Tripoli (Libya). (2) Blenheims will attack if located. (V.A. Malta, 1036B/18 to C. in C. Med).
Bardia.	Following has been read by Nore W/T. Nazi barge nearing Bardia. (Gibraltar, 0650Z/18).
Enemy Fleet.	Following has been read. Italian Fleet, 11 knots, composition uncertain, P.C. and S. of enemy battle fleet 33° 37' N., 22° 40' E., 180° 20, driven away fighters escort. (A/C call sign K7TK, 0830/18) Following has been read:- Objective of aircraft is enemy battleship in 33.37 N., 23.40 E., course 180° 20 K. (A/C call sign BC8, 0840/18 A/C call sign 6FJ 0900/18) Following has been read. Enemy battle fleet is in two columns course 1470. (A/C call sign K7TK, 0900/18) Following has been read. Have gained contact. (A/C call sign K7TK 0915/18)
AVON VALE, FARNDALE.	Indicate present P.C. and S. of (?corrupt group). (N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 0920B/18 to AVON VALE, FARNDALE). Your 0920B/18. 031° 25' N., 028° 35' E., 100° 6 knots. (FARNDALE, 1001B/18 to N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh).
Enemy Fleet.	Following has been read. Enemy's course and speed is 130° 20 knots. (A/C call sign K7TK, 0924/18). Following received from A/C using call sign 6FJ. Your 0840, are ships hostile? (Med., A/C, 0930/18).

/Sit...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations. - Contd.

Situation Report.

Situation 0745/18. C.S.15 with 4 cruisers and 12 destroyers was covering BRECONSHIRE during 17/12. He was shadowed and attacked by high level and torpedo bombing throughout the day. Enemy heavy forces were sighted by aircraft at 0825 and reported in 036° 32' N., 020° 08' E., and were again reported during afternoon. Positions were conflicting and even now it is not known with any certainty if one or two forces were at sea or exact composition. Convoy was first spotted in company of heavy ships at 1525 in 035° 47' N., 018° 11' E. At 1745 C.S. 15 most unexpectedly sighted 2 battleships and light forces to N.W. in 033° 52' 018° 39'. Battleships opened fire but darkness intervened and at 1845 C.S.15 had lost contact with enemy. Subsequent actions are not yet clear but C.S.15 was directed to send BRECONSHIRE on to Malta and to sweep for enemy convoys. NEPTUNE and 2 destroyers which left Malta 1500/17 were covering BRECONSHIRE to northwards. From intercepted signal C.S. 15 was sweeping across enemy track during the night but does not appear to have made contact. Enemy may have retired to North. A.S.V. Wellington (?was) co-operating and it is possible that an aircraft attacked with torpedoes about 0430.
(C. in C. Med., 0930B/18 to Admty.)
Following has been received. Am returning to base O.E.C.S. 160. 20 ships unidentified. (A/C using Call Sign KT7 1015/18).

M/V destroyer.

One medium-sized M/V not exceeding 10,000 tons bearing 215° distant 10 miles. One destroyer bearing 150° distant 8 miles from position 36.34 N., 10.35 E. (Med., A/C call sign D07 1016/18 to Med., A/C).

Enemy Fleet.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 Battleships 8 Destroyers 33.34. N., 23.26 E., 150° 15 knots. (Aircraft using call sign 7QBA, 1100/18).
Following has been read. Aircraft R - Squadron. Your 1100, confirm 2 BS not 2 CR.
(A/C call sign GY27 1136/18).
Following has been read. Addressed:- Aircraft Y Squadron. Do not attack.
(A/C Call sign 6 F.J. 1112/18).
Re NR.1. (T.O.O. 1112/18) Own Forces.
(A/C using 7 QBR., 1150/18 to A/C using 6 FJ).

C.S.15.

Continual air reports of enemy fleet in your vicinity. Consider these probably your force. Make smoke at 1220 to enable aircraft to identify you. (C. in C. Med., 1147B/18 to C.S.15).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations - Contd.

Enemy Ships.

Position of 19 enemy ships 33.14 N. 16.50 E. course 220°.
(A/C call sign R8VU, 1158/18.)
Following has been read: 2 Cruisers 8 Destroyers bearing 090° 15 knots course 150° 33.15 N. 24.12 Am over enemy submarine in 33.18 24.12 2709E (sic)
(A/C using Call sign 7QBF, 1200B/18.)
Our ships will make smoke at 1220 EE (? port)* 5
*(Actually received EEPOPT 5) if seen.
(A/C 6RJ, 1210/18.)
Ships friendly, uncertain of sub.
(A/C using Call Sign 7QB, 1215B/18.)
Following has been read: 1 battleship, 2 cruisers 5 destroyers, 33.22 N. 17.10 E, course 240° 16 knots.
(A/C B7G, 1225/18.)
Search westwards 50 miles to confirm no enemy naval forces there.
(A/C using call sign 6FJ, 1229/18 to A/C using call sign 7QHR.)
Following has been read: 8 destroyers, 4 9000-ton M/Vs. Position 33.06 N. 16.47 E. course 240°, speed 12 knots. 3 destroyers, 3 cruisers, 1 battleship, 33.06 N. 16.46 E. course 240° speed 12 knots.
(A/C using call sign R8VU, 1245/18.)
Following has been read: 2 destroyers, 2 unknown vessels, destroyer or larger warship. One S/M on surface position 33.42 N. 18.20 E. course 200° speed 25 knots.
(A/C R8VH, 1250B/18.)

C.S. 15.

Following from 201 Group. A 161, 18/12. Position C.S.15 at 1200/18, 33.20 N. 24.35 E. position at 1500/18, 32.25 N. 25.40 E. giving fighter cover as soon as possible. T.O.O.1158.
(R.A. Alexandria, 1251B/18 to C.S.15.)

Enemy Units.

Following received. Ref. NR.1 N.R.3, 2 destroyers 1 M/V stationary 33° 06' N. 16° 47' E. main force continuing.
(A/C R8VU, 1320B/18.)
Following has been read: Enemy previously reported in my 1250 are 2 cruisers of 10,000 tons 3 destroyers 33.39 N. 18.18 E. stopped 1325.
(A/C R8VH, 1330/18.)

Situation, proposals for Forces B, K, and T/B's.

(1) Expect Forces B and K to arrive off Grand Harbour 1430B. Should be ready to leave by 1800B/21. (2) Enemy Forces escorting 4 M/Vs consisting of 2 battleships 5 cruisers and 16 destroyers in approx. 033° 06' 016° 46' at 1245B steering towards Tripoli (Africa). (3) Malta Forces could attack off Tripoli at about 0200B tomorrow. Request your decision if this attack should be carried out. (4) If surface attack is not approved, torpedo bombers will attack M/Vs in vicinity Tripoli as it is possible that enemy heavy forces will retire at dusk.
(V.A. Malta, 1345B/18 to C. in C. Med.)

/Your ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations.

Situation, proposals for Forces B, K, and T/Bs. Contd.

Your 1345B/18. Torpedo bombers only, odds are too heavy for the cruiser.
(C. in C. Med., 1653B/18 to V.A. Malta).
Cancel my 1653B/18.
(C. in C. Med., 1809A/18 to Malta C. and C.O.)

4 M/Vs.

Following has been received Alexandria. Pass to A.O.C. from 8th Army. Hope you will be able to deal with 4 Merchant Ships now being escorted to Tripoli.
(?Med., 1431B/18).

A/C Sweeps.

Following received begins - Advance Base 815 Squadron Grebe repeated C. in C. Med., C.S.15, R.A Alexandria, S.O. Force I., from 201 Group.
1 Swordfish from Sidi Barrani carrying out A/S sweep from 031° 36' N., 026° 15' E., to 032° 18' N., 024° 37' E., returning on reciprocal track 8 miles to N.E. 1 aircraft from Dekhalia carrying out A/S sweep from 031° 15' N., 029° 40' E., to 031° 50' N., (27°)? 20' E., minelaying on reciprocal track 8 miles to N.E. Both sweeps to commence 1800. Force Q may be sighted. Operation order 360 not to be carried out. Naval authorities please inform ships. T.O.O. (?1246) /18 (ends).
(R.A. Alexandria, 1431B/18 to C.S.15, S.O. Force I).

Enemy Fleet.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy:- 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 3 M/Vs. 4 aeroplanes - 33.05 N., 15.58 E., - 27 S - 14. (A/C R8VX, 1514B/18).
At 1430, 1 battleship, 3 destroyers, P.C. and S. 033° 16' 016° 58' (?060°) 16 knots. 5 miles ahead, 1 battleship, 2 cruisers, 5 destroyers same course and speed. (V.A. Malta, 1616B/18 to C. in C. Med).
(1) My 1616B/16. Intend torpedo bombers attacking at about 2300B. (2) All available surface forces leaving Malta 1800B and attack about 0200B tomorrow. Special Wellington co-operating. (3) Wellingtons will be mining entrances to Tripoli (Africa) and bombing enemy ships when entering harbour. (V.A. Malta, 1655B/18 to C. in C. Med.)

URGE.

Forced to withdraw by E-boats and aircraft operating by night. Avoided torpedo last night and was hunted for 2½ hours. (URGE, 1630B/8 to Capt. S.10).

/Destroyers...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations. - Contd.

Destroyers. Your 0938/17 (N.T. in W.R.) Approved. Destroyers should make (?complete) cast to Eastward from Tobruk before dark/19th and should be East of Tobruk by daylight/20. (C. in C. Med., 1736B/18 to S.O. Force I).

FLAMINGO, PERSEUS, PORPOISE. Cruiser and destroyer will be operating to south and west of you during night 18/19. They have been informed of your route. FLAMINGO in tow and escorted by destroyer and trawler E.T.A. Alexandria 0830B/19 by inshore route. You may (?enter harbour) any time after 0800B. Give Sweeper a wide berth. (Capt. S.1., 1741B/18 to PERSEUS, PORPOISE).

Force B. Do not approach within 10 miles Tripoli. Wellingtons will bomb merchant ships within 3 miles of entrance. (V.A. Malta, 2017B/18 to Force B.)

C.S.15. Following received (begins). C.S.15 Rep. C. in C. Med., R.A. Alexandria from 201 Naval Co-op. Grp. A. 171 18/12. 1 Swordfish will be off end of Swept Channel at 2300 tonight and will carry out a S.V. search until you arrive when he will carry out an (2 corrupt groups) ahead of (corrupt group) until you enter harbour. Aircraft will show I.F.F. and will identify himself to you by flashing letter of day. T.O.O. 20 (corrupt group)/18 (ends). (R.A. Alexandria, 2104B/18 to C.S.15).

Orders to S/Ms. 2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, 8 Destroyers, 033° 32' 017° 34', 040° 20 knots, at 1700B /18. Withdraw well clear from present patrol to charge and rest but be in position given in my 1912B/17 URGE and UPHOLDER by dawn, P.31 UNBEATEN, and SOKOL by noon 19/12. Anticipate enemy may arrive Mersina about 1400B or Taranto 2000B on that day. It is not thought destroyers have sufficient fuel to maintain 20 knots until arrival. (Capt. S.10., 2145B/18 to 10th S/M Flotilla).

Swordfish to Attack. Wind has now altered to allow Swordfish to operate. They will attack not later that 0100. (V.A. Malta, 2155B/18 to Force B).

/Disabled...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Fleet Operations - Contd.

Disabled Destroyers.

2 large disabled destroyers in 033° 50' 017° 30' at 0600B/18 being towed stern first towards Navarin, speed unknown.
(Capt. S.1.2209B/18 to TORBAY repeated TRUANT).

Malta Movements.

18/12 arrived UPRIGHT, DECOY, BRECONSHIRE, JAGUAR. Arrived and departed AURORA, PENELOPE, NEPTUNE, LANCE, LIVELY, KANDAHAR, HAVOCK.
(V.A. Malta, 2220B/18 to Admty).

Swordfish to attack.

Expect Swordfish attack 0100.
(Med., A/C DVR7 2250B/18 to Med., A/C A.M9).

Enemy Destroyer.

1 Destroyer 180 5 200 33° N., 13° E., 3 W 2.
(A/C D. Sqdn., 2325/18 to S.O. Force B).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

General.

Libya. Military Situation Reports. (C.in C. M.E. 0240/18, 1440/18) See Lion Copy.

Lighters Lighter 'A' 9 and 'A' 4 returned to Harbour latter with engine trouble. Will not join "Loose". (N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh 0700B/18 to R.A. Alexandria).

Air Sqdns. for Burma. Following from Chief's of Staff No.215 to C's in C. M.E. and Med. (R) C.in C. India reference his 21197/G of 17/12. Situation in Burma causes us anxiety. Reinforcements by 1 squadron Blenheims urgently required. Would immediate despatch of 1 of the 6 Squadrons which you are preparing for the Far East seriously affect "Crusader" and/or "Acrobat?" If not, despatch at once and inform C.in C. India. (1st Sea Lord 1339A/18 to C.in C. Med.).

R.N.Air Station, Aden. Request received from C.in C. East Indies through Admiralty to transfer R.N. Air Section at Aden to Port Reitz Mombasa immediately. Admiralty propose to approve subject to A.M. concurrence. Admiralty state A.O.C. 201 (?) Group agrees. Admiralty intention is to establish storage section of 25 aircraft at Port Reitz and re-establish section at Aden.
(Air Ministry 1530/18 to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.).

Situation report 176. Central Mediterranean.
See my 0930/18 (2) Aircraft continue to report sightings of U/B's in area between Crete and Cyrenaica but attacks unsuccessful.
(3) My 1105/15 GALATEA was torpedoed in 31° 17' N. 29° 13' E. at 2359/14, and sank immediately. Destroyers rescued 13 Officers and 141 men. A/S hunt unsuccessful.
(4) Western Desert. HUNT Class destroyers and A/S craft are escorting convoys now running regularly to Tobruk. FLAMINGO in tow Tobruk to Alexandria. Heavy weather has caused some damage to small craft. Tug JEDDAH ashore near Mersa Matruh, Lighter A.11. waterlogged also reported ashore in Gulf of Sollum M.T.B. 68 sunk after collision with M.T.B. 215 RODI slightly damaged by near miss in Tobruk harbour where fighters now in operation. Heavy scale of minelaying by aircraft continues at Tobruk. Sweepers doing good work. Greek destroyers and T.B.D's have maintained night patrol off Bardia and Sollum but have not encountered enemy.
(5) Submarines. 1109/15 U/B engaged by TALISMAN considered sunk. My 2018/10 TALISMAN thought destroyers was U/B and engaged it, destroyer made

/off...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation report 176. Contd. off after being hit. (8) THRASHER torpedoed 5,000 ton M/V or A.M.C. on 25/11 last seen with heavy list and on fire in 40° 37' N., 18° 27' E. (7)Red Sea. All Suez escort force now withdrawn and Aden Force consists of two sloops and two trawlers. (C. in C. Med., 1655B/18 to Admty)

PORPOISE, PERSEUS, THORN. PORPOISE and PERSEUS are due Alexandria about 0600B/19 from 032° 20' 029° 02' and 033° 48' 026° 26' respectively. THORN leave Alexandria at 1630B/18 to pass through 032° 58' 029° 24'. Capt. S.1., 1655A/18 to Med., Fleet at Sea).

THORN. THORN leaves Alexandria at 1700B/18 routed through 32° 58' 29° 24' 35° 26' 26° 24' 35° 45' 23° 30' 36° 08' 20° 18' 37° 32' 20° 24' to area P within 48 miles of 38° 11' 20° 21'. She has been ordered to operate off Candia and Suda Bay during daylight 21st and 22nd respectively. (Capt. S.1., 1659B/18 to C. in C. Med).

M/Vs from Malta. A.M.1844A/16, para 1, for SYDNEY STAR read CITY OF CALCUTTA. (D.O.D.(F), 1715A/18 to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta)

Jibuti, use of French S/M. From Ops. Sitrep 12/12 to 17/12.
Free French report that Vichy submarine identified as VETGEUR (?VENGEUR) Djibuti carrying supplies confirmed by air R/C 15/12 when located leaving. Submarine is expected fortnightly bringing supplies evacuating 10 men. Unconfirmed report states 13 dhows arrived Obock JZX 44. Italian Commission Djibuti now reported to be only 5 Europeans.
(G.O.C. in C. East Africa 1730/18).

"Merit". "Merit" sailed 1750 routed in accordance with S.O. Force I 1701/14 (N.T. in W.R.)
(B.N.O.,Tobruk, 1805B/18 to R.A. Alexandria).

FLAMINGO. FLAMINGO in tow of ST. MONANCE with FARNDALE and FALK. E.T.A. Alexandria 2030/18.
(C. in C. Med., 1824B/18 to C.S.15 (R) Capt. (D) 14).

/REWAK...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

REWAK interception treatment of officers.

Admty 1504/18. C. in C. E.I. will presumably reply as this matter occurred before C. in C. Med., took over Red Sea. From subsequent correspondence, however, it appears that local authorities at Berbera were not entirely free from blame. Though two wrongs do not make a right it might be an offset to remind French that we also have had much cause for complaint, and I would draw particular attention to treatment of Mr. Flett, D.N.S.O., and other survivors of S.S. JAPAN, account of which was forwarded under Med., 1432/00190/2 of 25/8. The case of our Officers captured in Syria when in THEOPHILE GAUTIER is another instance of bad treatment.
(C. in C. Med., 1956B/18 to Admty (R) C. in C. E.I., F.O.R.S.)

KINGSTON CYANITE.

Has taken up J patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2019B/18 to Force Q Group I)

Malta Air Report.

Night 17/18. Weather very bad rain and low clouds except to west. Alert 2052 to 2127 hours, single aircraft. Bombs land. 4 Swordfish shipping sweep found tanker 4,000 tons with D/R 210° Keliba 5 miles southbound. 2 hits claimed. Explosion and fire. Could not be found today. Presumed sunk. Special Wellington search found 1730 hours 14 ships 220° Sapienza 250 miles course 015° varying 030° 25 knots, unable identify. 2026 hours found 10 more ships including 3 very large 240° Sapienza, 190 miles, course S.W. speed unknown. Refound original force then identified as friendly. 2102 hours again picked up 10 ships position then unknown and established communicative link with friendly forces until 0030 hours when lost through bad weather and technical trouble. 0245 hours 8 vessels 230° Sapienza 230 miles unidentified. Set course for base 0250 hours owing petrol shortage and engine trouble.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2050/18).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Control of Air Forces, Ceylon, by C. in C. India.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 7 to C. in C. India repeated C. in C. F.E. and E.I. Ref. your 20965/C cipher 16/12. Confirmed. (1st S.L. 0009A/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Limits of E.I. Station.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 8 to C. in C. India repeated C. in C. E.I. & E.F. Ref. your 21027/C of 16/12. Point you raise is covered in our C.O.S. No. (India) 4 of 16/12. (1st S.L. 0010A/18 to C. in C. E.I., C. in C. E.F.)

Malaya.

Reinforcements. C.O.S. No. (India) 5. (W.O. 0225/18 to C. in C. India, C. in C. F.E.) See Lion Copy.

SOLAR.

Request nationality of tanker SOLAR. (N.O.I.C. Bahrein, 0759Z/18, to Admty.)

CAPETOWN. CASTLE.

Your 0741/14. Personnel for Malaya in CAPETOWN CASTLE are being transhipped at Durban for onward passage.
2. CAPETOWN CASTLE will therefore have on board on arrival in Bombay personnel for India only.
3. After disembarkation she should proceed to New Zealand direct. (D. of S.T. 1041A/18 to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

QUEEN MARY.

Your 2126/15, ?1126/15 intended. Intend sailing ship P.M. Friday 19th. (C. in C. E.I. 1222Z/18, to Admty.)

ATREUS.

ATREUS should load up with mines, stores and 2 Control Stations at Trincomalee to full capacity and on completion report number of mines, number of control stations and amounts of cable, (a) on board and (b) remaining at Trincomalee. (D.T.M. 1355A/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

Oil Transport. Towage of F/D.

Owing to latest developments Anglo Iranian Oil Co. inform me on instructions from London they are required to prepare to ship from Abadan and Bandar Mashur double quantity of oil which they are now despatching with consequent bunching oftankers. If fully implemented this programme will entirely preclude use of their tugs to remove floating dock. Priority decision will be required. (S.N.O. P.G., 1440Z/18 to C. in C. E.I.) Reply: 1018/19.

/Command.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies-Contd.

Command of Air Force in Ceylon.

Following is paraphrase of message passed between C. in C. India and myself begins: Troopers repeated Eastfar C. in C. E.I. from Arm India. Consider as the defence of Ceylon is now responsibility of India operational control of air forces should also be vested in me. 2965/9. Reply. Personal General Wavell from C. in C. E.I. I suggest as all aircraft now in Ceylon are for Naval Co-operation there is no immediate need to change the present operational control. My Chief of Staff is waiting on Viceroy shortly and will also confer with you. Please defer the question of control of Air Force in Ceylon until after you have seen him. (C. in C. E.I. 1454Z/18 to Admty.)

HOBART.

Admty. 2235/11.
(1) HOBART has one 4 barrel multiple pom-pom on board for mounting on quarter deck.
(2) Pending a decision as to her destination work is beingput in hand now at Colombo to plane the fuse ring and mount the gun to await at normal notice. Work should be completed and ship ready to sail (? P.M.) Monday ?22/12. (C. in C. E.I. 1526Z/18 to A.C.N.B.)

China.

Limits of E.I. Station.

Your 0742/17. Concur.
(C. in C. E.F. 0150Z/18 to C. in C. E.I.)

SAGOLAND.

U.S. 5334 tons, reported set on fire in air raid on Manila on 17/12, expected total loss. (D.S. 835, 18/12).

CORREGIDOR.

Press reports from Manila state mined and sunk off Manila. Local passenger steamer. (D.S. 835).

/Japanese.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Japanese land on Hong Kong Island.

After heavy bombardment Japanese have effected a landing on N.E. corner of Island. Am using all resources to evict them. (G.O.C. Hong Kong,0330/18 to W.O.)

D.M.I.

A.M. 2335A/17 para. 2. Intend convoy proceed to Singapore via Sunda Straits provided situation at time permits. Request early information approximate date when fast convoy will leave Durban intended route and composition of escorts. (C. in C. E.F. 0443Z/18 to C. in C. E.I. N.O.I.C. Durban. Rep. Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N. N.O.I.C. Simonstown, C. in C. S.A.)

Malaya.

Military Situation Report. (G.O.C. M., 0625/18 to W.O. etc.) See Lion Copy.

Air operations.

Daily Op. Summ. up to 1030Z/18/12.
11 large transports Pattani considerable launch activity between transports and shore. R/C Miri Area from Sinkawang located and attacked 1 cruiser or battleship 3 destroyers. No direct hits. Combat between 3 Navy 'O' fighters retractable undercarriage type and 2 Buffalos, pilots reported enemy aircraft faster and more manoeuvrable than Buffalos and handling perfect. Later R/C Miri area from Sinkawang reported unknown number of ships and very bad weather. Dutch Bomber Squadrons Samiuwkoa 17/12 located and attacked 2 cruisers 2 transports 3 destroyers Miri area. Near misses on 1 cruiser and 2 transports. Dutch Navy Dornier scored direct hit on destroyer. Bombers attacked by Jap Fighters probably from aircraft carrier unseen. (A.H.Q. Far East 1415/18).

Troop Reinforcements

Personal for Gen. Wavell. Your 21076/16/12 crossed my 50/7 16/12. Most grateful. More troops are required to turn the scale. Time factor is likely to be all important. I understand from Mr. Duff Cooper that British 18th Div. is being routed to India to be used to best advantage. It will certainly be required here. Without knowing its position or loading cannot judge whether its leading bde. could reach here sooner than yours. Agree passage of Malacca Straits likely to become impracticable soon. C. in C. E.F. intends to keep open Sunda Strait route and we are exploring the problem with the Dutch. (C. in C. F.E. 1431/18 to C. in C. India.)

/Publicity.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Publicity.

Your 03252/6. Your difficulties are fully appreciated and every endeavour will be made to meet your requirements. Extremely difficult matter to find suitable officers with the necessary experience. As a temporary arrangement it may be you could use the three R.N. Officers (Retired) survivors of PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE. (2nd S.L. 1604A/18 to C. in C. E.F.)

Defence of Sunda Straits.

58599 Cipher (M.O.10) 17/12.
Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E. 61.
Report Dutch arrangements for protecting Sunda Straits. (W.O. 1710/17 to C. in C. F.E.)
Your 58599 (M.O.10) 17/12. Defence of Sunda Straits. No fixed defences. Straits patrolled by 2 sloops, 1 flying boat. 1 cruiser, 2 leaders, 4 destroyers, and 2 submarines which operate in South Java Sea can assist. Air forces which might be made available from Batavia about 9 R/C, 9 bombers.
2. To bring a convoy through Straits entails a combined operation which will take precedence over other operations. (C. in C. F.E., 2234/18 to W.O.)

Minister at Singapore.

Chancellor of Duchy of Lancaster has been appointed Resident Minister of Cabinet rank at Singapore for Far Eastern Affairs. He will serve under and report directly to War Cabinet. He will preside over War Council which will consist of:) Govr. of Straits Settlements, C. in C. F.E. N.C. in C. A.O.C. G.O.C. Director of Propaganda for Far East. Officer Commanding Australian Troops will be invited to attend when in Singapore, and will be informed when matters affecting Australia are to be discussed. (Addition of other members to Council may later be found necessary). His principal task will be to assist successful conduct of operations in Far East:-
(a) by relieving Cs. in C. as far as possible of extraneous responsibilities with which they have hitherto been burdened, and
(b) by giving them broad political guidance.
Appointment of Chancellor does not, of course, in any way impair existing responsibilities of Cs. in C. or H.M. representatives in Far East, or their official relationships with their respective Departments at home, with whom they will continue to correspond direct.
Geographical sphere of appointment will coincide with that of C. in C. Far East, but in present situation activities are in practice likely to be confined to Malaya.
Appointment will be announced at noon B.S.T/19.
(Head of M. 1927A/18 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.'

/Malaya.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China-Contd.

Malaya Reinforcements.

The following moves necessitated by situation in Far East are under consideration by C. in C. India. (Military and Air).
6. These moves are additional to those in A.M. 2335/17. (D.O.D. (F) 1929A/18 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I.)

Convoy D.M.1.

Convoy constituted by A.M. 2335/17 para. 2 is to be known as D.M.1. (D.O.D. (F) 1931A/18 to C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.I., F.O.C.R.I.N., etc.)

Far East Appreciation.

C. in C. F.E., 2219/18 to W.O. See Lion Copy.

Hong Kong Situation.

Sitrep to 1900 hours local time.
Night 17/18 very quiet and artillery fire negligible. Aberdeen shelled from seaboard. No damage. Enemy air activity today on intenser scale than hitherto.
Probable number (bombs) dropped exceeded 100 which is highest number to date. Stanley barracks and Murray barracks bombed. Military casualties. A.P.C. installation at north point set ablaze. Deliberate and accurate dive bombing attacks on centre civil government. Japanese have cleared Kai Tak aerodrome of all obstacles. Continual artillery, mortar shelling and dive bombing on north face of island all day. Bowen road Hospital badly hit and upper floor a shambles. Civilian hospitals also damaged shell fire. In general much damage such as water mains cut, roads cratered, tram wires down etc. and road communications becoming a serious problem. All signal communications including buried cable cut many (?times) and maintenance very difficult matter.
Morale of population continues improving. Rice situation a little easier but storage large quantity in go-downs on water destroyed is unfortunate factor. (G.O.C. Hong Kong 2335/12 to W.O.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

INDOMITABLE. Sailed INDOMITABLE in accordance with C. in C. A.W.I. 1112Q/13 and C. in C. A.W.I. 1156Z/16 and 1113Z/17. E.T.A. Capetown 1600Z/1/1. (N.O.I.C. Trinidad, 0012Q/18 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

S.C.60. Departures 17/12, SAGUENAY, SPIKENARD, SHEDIAC, CAMROSE, WETASKIWIN for S.C. 60. (C.C.N.F. 0023Z/18 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Estimated positions of H.M. and Allied ships at 1800 G.M.T./18. (D.O.D. (F), 1025Z/18 to Opnav). See Lion Copy.

NEA HELLAS. Your 1941Z/16 and A.M. 2304A/17. Number of Army personnel should be restricted in accordance with A.M. 1936A/25/9. Surplus removed should await next available opportunity. (D.O.D. (H) 1121A/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Movements of U.S. Ships. Your 2357A/16 para. 5.
(i) All information obtainable was sent by Opnav in his 1655/16 addressed Admty.
(ii) Suggest exchange of this information should be a routine matter, request instructions including desired interval between reports and we will endeavour to arrange. (B.A.D. 1147R/18 to Admty.)

Hawaii damage, salvage. In connection with damage to U.S. ships at Hawaii, you may wish us, as a gesture or otherwise, to offer services of British salvage experts with experience of methods used at Scapa. (B.A.D. 1341R/18 to Admty.)

MATHILDA. My 2018/12 (MATHILDA to proceed to Mobile for repairs etc.) Norwegian MATHILDA reported 18/12 drifting ashore 10 miles N.W. of Nuevitas. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1527Z/18 to S.O. Kingston etc.)

PENOLVER overdue. Your 1725/17. See my 2022/17 re PENOLVER. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1529Z/18 to Admty.)

Wreck. W.J.A. 58 wreck of small craft observed in position 044° 00' N. 048° 21' W. at 2000/16. (C.N.S. Canada 1531Z/18).

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

U.S. Convoy. U.S. convoy (b) 02 escorted by U.S. Cruiser PENSACOLA will arrive in position 200° east of Brisbane at 2300 G.C.T./20. PENSACOLA has set watch in accordance with S.P. 02376 table 8 Appendix 1. (ii) Has this information been received from any other source?
(B.A.D. 1621R/18 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. N.Z.N.B.)

Seamen from Finland, etc. My 1448Z/13. Does decision to intern all Finnish, Roumanian, Hungarian seamen on arrival U.K. still stand? Large proportion of these seamen have no definite leanings, are reliable and recommended to continue in service. In view of M. of W.T. instructions that they will be interned on arrival U.K., it is assumed these seamen should be held in Canada. Until situation is clarified Canadian Immigration have agreed to detain any seamen when so requested where they will be clockwise treated.
Seems very few of those detained will be interned in Canada and it is hoped that Canadian Govt. will approve employment in Canadian coastal trade of seamen well disposed to allied cause.
Question of internment is still being considered.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1641Z/18 to Admty.)

Washington Report. Washops 8.
1. Hawaii. U.S. Merchant ships PRESIDENT COOLIDGE and SCOTT arrived Honolulu from Manila 17/12.
2. Nothing else of interest to report.
(J.S.M., Washington, 1747R/18, to Admty. etc.)

NEWCASTLE. Your 2142A/22/10. Provided weather does not interfere with working up practice, intend NEWCASTLE to leave Bermuda for U.K. P.M./21. Request destination. (C. in C. A.W.I., 1752Q/18 to Admty.) Reply: 2003/20, Devonport.

MIMOSA.
ALYSSE.
ACONIT. Cancel A.M. 0008A/16. MIMOSA, ALYSSE and ACONIT may now be sailed as required by C.C.N.F. C.O.A.C. is requested to obtain Adm. Muselier's agreement. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1811A/18 to C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F.)

S.C.42.
KENOGAMI. For D.A.S.W.
Ref. analysis of U-boat operations convoy S.C.42. It is not clear whether para. 85 is intended as a reproof for KENOGAMI or as information to all corvettes for future action. KENOGAMI is not fitted with a searchlight.
(C.C.N.F., 1831Z/18 to Admty.) Reply: 1151/19.

/Hawaii.....

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies-Contd.

Hawaii U/Boats. — Report from C. in C. Pacific Eastern passage between Oahu and Hawaii considered submarine hazard. (Opnav, 2009/18 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R) Admty.)

EMMY. TOVELIL. — Your 1930/3. Greek EMMY and TOVELIL have not yet arrived this side. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2137Z/18 to Admty.)

BYT 1 - 5. — Your 1835R/14 para. 3. In the present situation we are anxious to assist meeting U.S. Navy's wishes wherever possible. U.S. Authorities accordingly should be asked if they would like to retain BYT numbers 1 to 5. Admiralty would readily agree. (Vice-Controller 2204A/18 to B.A.D.)

Hawaii, U/Boats. — Opnav reports Eastern passage between Oahu and Hawaii considered submarine hazard. N.C.S.O.'s. West Coast Canada and U.S.A. informed. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2237A/18 to Capt. O.S., Singapore, A.C.N.B., etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

AWATEA. — Re use for transport of air trainees to Canada, as MONTEREY unlikely to be available. (N.Z. Govt., 0200/18 to S. of S. for Dominions). See Lion Copy.

Enemy Activity, "Digest" Summaries. — My 0552Z/16. Unidentified motor ship considered possibly enemy A.M.C. sighted off Nissan Island New Guinea, 0330Z/15. Enemy submarine (?near) missed off Koepang 16/12. A 6000 ton ship (probably Seaplane Carrier) (?reported to be) at Butaritari which appears to be now Japanese Air Base in Gilbert and which possesses advantage over Tarawa. Dutch protective force landed at Dilli, Portuguese Timor, 17/12 as a precautionary measure against Japanese occupation and with consent of local Governor. C. in C. 4th Japanese

/Fleet....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Enemy Activity "Digest" Summaries. Contd.

Fleet is now in Truk area. Note; future signals containing summary of enemy activity in Australian station and adjacent waters (?will) commence with word "Digest" which will indicate that they are addressed to authorities in this message. C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet and C. in C U.S. Pacific Fleet please pass this and future "Digest" signals to Command General U.S.A. F.F.E. Manila and Command General, Hawaiian dept. Honolulu respectively.
(A.C.N.B., 0651Z/18 to Admty. etc).

China Coasters.

Understood some 20 vessels of China Coasting Trade have reached ports in Australia. M. of W.T. is anxious that any of these ships which cannot usefully be employed locally should be sent to Indian waters if practicable.
(A.C.N.S. (T), 1450A/18 to A.C.N.B.)

CHEVREUIL.

Programme:- 16/12 Goro. 17th Mare Island. 18th Lifou Oueva Islands. 19th Pott Island. 20th Islands of Huon, Surprise and Hart. 21st Paagoumene. 22nd Noumea ends.
(B.C. Melbourne, 2311Z/18)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ST. DENIS. My R.S. 604, 28/11. (1) This Attache, who has recent news from Vichy, stresses political bargaining strength gradually accruing to Darlan due to our increasing naval successes against Italian warships in Mediterranean. He again repeats his conviction that never could French Fleet be used in support of German sea transport to Africa.
(2) Two matters causing distrust at present:
(a) Intentions of British if and when we reach Tunisian border.
(b) Sinking of ST. DENIS on decisions. Though aware of B.B.C. statements that U-Boat could not have been British he states that only a personal assurance from our Admiralty would convince him of truth of this information.
Note: Should you decide to do this his subsequent telegram to Vichy will be intercepted and read by Swedish and probably by Germans.
(N.A. Stockholm, 1131/18, to D.N.I.)

EMPIRE BARRACUDA. My 1748A/16 Para. 2. Area searched but no further survivors seen.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1149A/18, to Admty.)

CASSEQUEL, (torpedoed 15/12.) Your 1703/17. No British or Allied submarine was in the vicinity.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1234A/18, to N.A. Lisbon.)
My 1258A/17. Chief Officer landed today stated 4 boats got away from CASSEQUEL, CHAMPION picked up one boat. No further survivors have been landed Gibraltar.
2. Chief Officer also stated ship torpedoed 2000 G.M.T./14 in 035° 08' N., 011° 14' W.
(Gibraltar, 1848A/18, to Admty.)

Submarines Reported.

2126/17. A.S.V. Wellington reports possible submarine 10 miles north of Mersa Metruh at 2126/17.
(C. in C. Med., 0031B/18 to Med. Fleet.)
Your 0001A/18. Those signals were from a U-Boat to the Westward of Gibraltar.
(D.D.I.C. 0322A/18 to BROKE, (R) C. in C. W.A.)

0410.(Med.) Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 34.30 N.,15° E., Probably a S/M.
A/C AM 9 Duty D. 0410/18 to A/C R 7 M.

0900. One S/M on surface bearing 209° distance 15 miles course unknown position ?? 306-36° N., 15° W., 47.
(STORK, 0900A/18, to F.O.C.N.A.)
My 0900A. EXMOOR,BLANKNEY,STANLEY, and DEPTFORD searching.
(STORK, 0915A/18, to F.O.C.N.A.)

/1228. There.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 18.12.1941. Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

1228. There are indications that U-boats are being homed on to H.G.76 possibly by aircraft.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1228A/18 to Ships escorting H.G.76.)
Am over enemy S/M in position 33.00 N.22.
40 E 290° 9.
(A/C using Call Sign R8VH, 1316B/18.)

Canary Islands Base. No. 1230/18. Following received by my U.S., colleague from his Consulate, Casablanca, 16/12. December U.S. observer is informed from a reliable source that 12 German submarines are operating from Canary Islands and patrolling coast from Dakar to Casablanca. Consul endeavouring to obtain more details.
2. My U.S. colleague is doubtful of accuracy of reports.
(Tangier 1335/18 to F.O., (R) Adm., Gibraltar.)

Estimated approx. positions of U/B's.
(D.D.I.C. 1352A/18, 1353A/18.)

1350. 1350 G.M.T./18 reliable report enemy S/M 025° 50' N., 079° 50' W. Aircraft and surface craft of forces proceeding to area.
(U.S.C.N.O., 1850/18 to U.S. Destroyer GOLDSBOROUGH etc.

2245. (Med.) Following has been read Alexandria W/T, from S.O. 15 Cr. Sq. One S/M on surface position 31.32 N., 29.14 E.
(Nore W/T, 2245/18.)
S/M on the surface could this be H.M.S. PERSEUS?
(C.S.15, 2259/18 to Capt. S.I.)
My 2245. 14th D.F. hunting. They are short of oil.
(C.S.15, 2317/18 to C. in C. Med.)
Submarine sighted in 031° 32' 029° 14' at 2245B/18.
(Capt. S.I., 2357B/18 to PERSEUS, PORPOISE.)
Your 2317. (Re:- 14 D F still hunting but short of oil, and previous signal. Accurate position PERSEUS and PORPOISE unknown.
Estimated positions are in accordance with my 1911B/17 and my 1655B/18. Both submarines have been warned of your approach.
(Capt. S.I, 2359B/18 to C.S.15.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

18.12.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By COCKER.

COCKER gained contact in 031° 17' 028° 46' at 2230. Have had no further reports and have ordered COCKER to rejoin.
(HERO, 0025B/18, to N.O.I.C. Alexandria.)

By STORK, EXMOOR, etc.

To ships concerned - well done - keep it up.
(C. in C.W.A., 1051A/18, to STORK.)
Well done again. There are more Birds about. I hope you have got your loader with you.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1059A/18, to STORK, EXMOOR.)
My P.C. and S., are 036° 14'N., 014° 40' W., 090° 18 knots at 1430, EXMOOR in company.
H.G.76 P.C. and S., 036°15' N., 015° 45' W., 310° 7½ knots at 0830.
Have 45 survivors from U-Boat 434 and 4 U-Boat 143 and EXMOOR 44 from U-Boat 143. Learnt from survivors position and movements of convoy and name of aircraft carrier are known. STORK informed. BLANKNEY damaged port side due to ramming U-Boat. Docking required. Weather report. Request fighter protection.
(BLANKNEY, 1431A/18, to F.O.C.N.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

U.131.
(sunk 17/12.)

Their Lordships congratulate you, your officers and ships companies upon the destruction of U.131. 2. Their Lordships have noted the important part played by AUDACITY's aircraft and they deeply regret the death of her pilot.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1438A/18 to STORK, AUDACITY, EXMOOR, BLANKNEY.

By A/C's from Gibraltar.

A. 780 18/12 Opsum.
(2) 2 Simultaneous Hudsons parallel track A/S Sweep 1200 to 1900. U-Boat position 35.52 N., 03.25 W., at 1430 hours attacked, 3 near misses.
(3) Sunderland A/S Sweep 0730 to 1830. U-Boat attacked at 1750 position 3603N., 0324W, estimate 2 hits.
(7) Hudson U-Boat strike 1600 and 2030 U-Boat attacked at 1430 hours in 3552N., 0335W.
(200 Group, 1750/18.)

By A/C.

Am over enemy submarine in 36.06 N., 3.24 W.
(Med. A/C (Call sign W9HQ) 1750/18 to Med. A/C. (Call sign GFGJ.)
Enemy submarine previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge, when first sighted was on course 080°. Have attacked enemy with depth charges and bombs dive.
(A/C M9HQ 1755/18.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

It is reported (B.3) that at 1600/15 3 German warships believed to be cruisers accompanied by other vessels passed between Skaw and Gothenburgh on a northerly course; one of the warships seemed larger than the others, though darkness prevented identification.

Visual R/C of Brest at 1745 today showed that PRINZ EUGEN had left her berth. As smoke cover obscured most of the harbour it eannot be said whether the ship has sailed or not.

[redacted]

British Air Operations.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked the battle cruisers at Brest last night.

Enemy Air Operations.

Tanker LUCELLUM in Convoy B.B. 13 was attacked set on fire and abandoned at 1830 today near Bardsey Island. Later, tugs were sent and she was towed to Holyhead.

Mining.

Enemy aircraft were suspected of minelaying in the Humber area last night. Several magnetic mines were exploded in the Humber area today.

Enemy aircraft were also engaged last night in minelaying in the Merseyside area.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Naval Martlets from AUDACITY escorting Convoy H.G.76 shot down two F.W. 200's and damaged two more, this afternoon, about 450 miles west of Lisbon.

Dutch S/M O.24 is to be withdrawn from patrol and sail from Gibraltar to the Far East via the Mediterranean.

Mediterranean.

There were air raids on Malta between 2111/18 and 0059/19. Damage was caused at Luqa Aerodrome.

6 Albacores were despatched last night to attack a convoy found dispersed north of Homs (apparently the important convoy covered and escorted by the Italian battle fleet). Two hits with torpedoes on 2 merchant vessels are claimed.

NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE and KANDAHAR were mined early today in about 33° 15' N. 13° 12' E. AURORA proceeded to Malta at 16 knots. PENELOPE also struck a mine but was not seriously damaged, NEPTUNE who struck 3 or 4 mines sank. JAGUAR successfully rescued 8 officers and 166 ratings of KANDAHAR under very difficult conditions and KANDAHAR was subsequently sunk by torpedo.

Libya and Western Desert.

Wellingtons last night mined the Approaches to Benghazi harbour in connection with the approach of a convoy reported by Malta R/C. The operation was covered by further Wellingtons which bombed the harbour with 4000 ton bombs. Tripoli and Derna harbour were also bombed. Our troops occupied Derna this morning without opposition.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland W/T communication.

Your 1049A/18. Until the W/T transmitter type 21B is in working order in Iceland a depot ship with a good L/F transmitter is required for communication with U.K. The type 21B working a fixed service at Reykjavik will cause considerable interference to local broadcasting station and hence diplomatic difficulties. VULCAN the present U.S. depot ship has not got suitable W/T transmitters. (C. in C. H.F. 1120A/19 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Use of Murmansk for Russian Convoys.

Following for Maclay from M.W.T. is repetition of F.O. tel. No. 23 to Ambassador at Moscow. Repeated to Kuibyshev and to Maclay Archangel. Begins:-
Following from Allied Supplies Executive. He would be grateful if you would discuss with Secretary of State who as member of Executive will be familiar with the problem. Begins:-
1. Please refer to tel. 34 from Maclay. It has now become a matter of the utmost urgency to secure Soviet agreement to the full use of Murmansk, if the flow of military supplies is to be maintained. Delay in completion of Molotovsk and Ekonomiya, shortage of first rate ice-breakers and increasing difficulty of ice conditions make it now certain that Archangel cannot be relied upon to handle all convoys now on the way or planned.
2. Local Russians cannot agree to use of Murmansk or to expediting necessary preparations. This decision can only be taken in Moscow.
3. Any risks and inconvenience involved in using Murmansk must be weighed against possibility of interruption of the Archangel route at any moment on account of lack of reserve icebreakers and increasingly severe conditions.
4. Following your 61 and 62 Mossy we have as notified in our number 126 Mossy continued to load all ships as for Archangel and have assumed that Murmansk will be available only when Archangel fails to cope with the flow. This point is now imminent and the immediate completion of Murmansk organisation for discharging and defence is vital to the assurance of supplies. Please take this up urgently and request that authority be given to discharge at Murmansk part of convoy P.Q.7. due about 30/12. Please repeat answer to Maclay. (D. of S.T. 2227A/19 to N.C.S.O. Archangel.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

VESPER. Cancel my 1654A/18 owing to fog. F.O.I.C.
ACTIVE. Humber is requested to sail ACTIVE for Londonderry independently as convenient. (C. in C. Nore 1042A/19 to VESPER).
Intend to sail ACTIVE to Londonderry at 1145 tomorrow, speed 20 knots. Speed will be adjusted to arrive during daylight. (F.O. Humber 1758A/19)
My 1558/19. Delete reference to ACTIVE.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1824/19).

P.36. for Gib. (A) Adjust route to pass 49° N. 007° 06' W. and proceed onward by route E, thence patrol in position 10. Remain to eastward of longtitude 005° W. until 2000A/19th and be clear either to Eastward or Westward of area between 005° 30' W. and 006° 30' W. at 0800A/20th punctually.
(F.O.S. 1116A/19 to P.36.)

SUFFOLK. Your 1859A/18. For SUFFOLK to dock Rosyth would prejudice the completion date of NELSON.
2. SUFFOLK can be taken in hand for docking at South Shields forthwith.
3. Request you will sail her accordingly arranging with C. in C. Rosyth for air protection and S.A. (? A/S) escort as necessary.
(D.O.D. H. 1205A/19 to C. in C. H.F.)
Adty. 1205A/19. SUFFOLK sails from Scapa to arrive at May Island 1130/21. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange for S.A. escort to R/V off May Island and escort SUFFOLK to Tyne. Fighter protection arranged. (C. in C. H.F. 2351A/19 to SUFFOLK).

0.9. At 0200A/20 intend to sail 0.9 escorted by ANGLE from Rothesay to arrive 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 0400A/22. Thence 0.9. as directed by F.O.S. and ANGLE return to Clyde. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection for passage to Wolf Rock.
(Capt. S.7. 1421A/19)

AGAMEMNON. Sailed AGAMEMNON in accordance with my 1144A/18. E.T.A. 1015A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1514A/19 to R.A.M.)

23rd M/L Flotilla. A.M. 1847A/10/12. Request 23rd M.L. Flotilla may be sailed for Great Yarmouth as soon as ready. (R.A.C.F. 1529/19 to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen)

/FORMIDABLE.....

MOST SECRET.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-Contd.

FORMIDABLE.
ILLUSTRIOUS.

R.A.(M) is requested to sail LANCASTER, NEWARK to meet FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS in position (X) 180° Otter Rock 5 miles at 0900A/21 then to act in accordance with Admiralty's 1936A/9 para. 5.
(ii) VANQUISHER, VOLUNTEER, WITCH on relief LANCASTER, NEWARK are to fuel at Londonderry then proceed to Liverpool.
(iii) MONTGOMERY, CHELSEA are to remain with aircraft carrier during flying on and off then escort FORMIDABLE to Belfast.
(iv) MONTGOMERY to Greenock. CHELSEA to Londonderry on completion. (C. in C. W.A. 1548A/19).
Ship will be basined A.M. 26th. (C. in C. Rosyth 1825/19 to ILLUSTRIOUS).

BEGONIA.

C. in C. W.A. 2335A/18. Refuelling Londonderry. E.T.A, Scapa 1600/20.
(BEGONIA 1954A/19).

RENOWN.
RODNEY.

RENOWN sails from Scapa and RODNEY from Hvalfjord as necessary to R/V in 061° N. 014° 30' W. at 1230A/21. Ships are to exchange screens and RENOWN proceed to Hvalfjord, RODNEY returning to Scapa.
(ii) R.A.(D). H.F. is requested to detail 3 destroyers to sail with RENOWN and return to Scapa with RODNEY. (C. in C. H.F. 1655A/19).

NIGER.

Engine trials of NIGER justify ship sailing p.m. 21st. (N.O.I.C. Dundee 1733/19).

SEAGULL.
EDINBURGH.

SEAGULL will be at position R one 11300/20. EDINBURGH with 2 destroyers escorting 2 M/V's, E.T.A. Kola Inlet A.M. 20th, routed as in my 23490/17. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 17410/19 to SEAWOLF).

HEBE.
SEAWOLF.
SEAGULL.
EDINBURGH.
ECHO.
ESCAPADE.

HEBE from 069° 34' N. 034° 24' E. at 16000/19 proceeding Iokanka, E.T.A. 10000/20. SEAWOLF on patrol returning from R/V position 069° 34' N. 034° 24' E. with SEAGULL 11300/20 for escort to Polyarno. EDINBURGH, ECHO, ESCAPADE escorting two M/V's E.T.A. Kola Inlet A.M. 20th.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 18480/19 to C.S.18, HEBE).

CAIRO.

CAIRO's steaming performance and good work during the past year reflects great credit on all concerned. (C. in C. W.A. 2342A/19 to CAIRO).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

19.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Anklet".

TIGRIS sailed escorted position 060° 52' N. 001° 2' 30" W., then unescorted through (1) 063° N. 001° E. (2) 066° N. 007° E., thence to patrol north and east of position (2). (A.C.O.S. 0945/19 to S/M's Area A.)

Biscay S/M Patrol.

F.O.S. 1906A/17. A. Delete OBERON, H.34, H.43. B. Following submarines proceed by lettered routes previously ordered, thence to new patrol positions indicated.
H.31. 04.
O.10. 05.
(F.O.S. 1117A/19).
F.O.S. 1954A/17. Para. B delete OBERON. Para. C. delete H.43, H.34. Amend H.31 to position 04, and O.10 to position 05. Add P.36 to position 10. (F.O.S. 1558A/19).

Exercise "Striker".

Your 0200/18. Assistance of Naval Commanders much appreciated. It is regretted not now possible to accept offer in case of C. in C. Portsmouth owing to distance between Naval and Army H.Q.'s concerned. (Hofors., 1227/19 to Admty.)

Patrol off Cherbourg.

Request P.38 may be sailed in accordance with paras. two and three of F.O.S. 1857A/13. (Capt. S.5. 1653A/19 to C. in C. Plymouth).
(a) H.32 is to be sailed p.m./20 to patrol in vicinity of 049° 53' N. 001° 14' W. Object as in my 1857A/17 para. C.
(b) P.38 and H.32 are not to attack S/M's while in vicinity of their patrol position.
(F.O.S. 1654A/19).
Intend to sail H.32 from seaward end Q.Z.S. 169 about 1500/20 diving by day to comply with F.O.(S) 1654A/19. (Capt. S.5. 2104A/19).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

Admiralty's 1311A/13 para. 3.
(a) After discussion with (corrupt groups) consider maintenance patrol near minefield is not repetition not justifiable under typical conditions of infrequent sight low (? visibility) and gale until (?corvettes) have been fitted with echo sounding. They have no D/F (?and) compasses are unstable.
(b) A patrol at a distance from minefield in co-operation with the cruiser and relying on her slow speed position is however being arranged.

/(c).....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol. - Contd.

(c) Consider ships for this patrol must have echo sounding to 500 fathoms and direction finding and should be fitted as soon as possible.
(d) For efficiency of this patrol and safety of ships also recommend: (i) shore D/F stations be established (ii) accurate sounding of area be published.
(e) Ice is now within 25 miles of (?minefields) and closer in calm weather. (C.S.1. 1901Z/19 to C. in C. H.F.)

Patrol A.

VIVACIOUS proceeding on patrol A now. (VIVACIOUS 1915A/19).

British Air Activity.

ENGADINE.

My 1106/23/11. Admiralty greatly appreciate the work of R.A.F.E.O. Glasgow in loading ENGADINE under difficult conditions. (D.N.A.D. 1121A/19 to Air Ministry.)

Biscay Patrol.

Weather permitting following air patrol will be flown tonight. A "Cross Over" from 2200/19 to dawn 20th. Through (A) 047° 28' N. 007° 10' W. (B) 046° 00' N. 006° 35' W. (C) 046° 18' N. 006° W. (D) 047° 11' N. 007° 48' W.
First Sortie Sunderland then Whitley.
B. line from 0015/20 to 0345/20 through (E) 047° 33' N. 4° 37' W. (F) 047° 14' N. 003° 25' W. (G) 045° 43' N. 001° 30' W.
Whitley. (C. in C. Plymouth 1732/19 to WELSHMAN).

A/Cs approaching Plymouth.

If friendly bombers accidently approach the Plymouth gun defended area, there is a possibility, particularly at night or in low visibility, that they will be fired on by the local naval patrols which operate within a radius of 4 miles to seaward from Breakwater Fort.
2. In order to avoid this possibility request that I may be informed when Bomber Command aircraft are carrying out operations which may bring them near Plymouth. Patrols will then be warned accordingly. (C. in C. Plymouth 1757/19 to H.Q.B.C.)

AUDACITY.

My warmest congratulations to you, your fighters, directing staff, and the pilots concerned on destruction of two more Condors. (C. in C. W.A. 1933A/19 to AUDACITY.)

A/S Method.

Following method of aircraft A/S operation by moonlight has been employed with success by Swordfish fitted A.S.V. Mark II N. based Gibraltar.
Details. Has also succeeded on moonless nights. (D.N.A.D. 1947A/19).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

WELSHMAN. My 1201/18. Sailed WELSHMAN. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1101A/19).
WELSHMAN passes Wolf Rock southbound at 1745A/19 and northbound through 049° 30' N. 006° E. at 0800A/20. (F.O.S. 1112A/19 to S/M's Area A).

Bristol Channel. Exploded red mine at 1124A in 188° 1.7 miles from Flatholm Light. (Capt. M/S Bristol Channel 1447A/19).

N.P.18. Intend to carry out operation N.P. 18 tonight. (V.A. Dover 1500A/19).
Departures M.G.B's 63, 65, 67.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2157A/19).

Humber. Following six magnetic mines exploded today by Sweepers. Details.
(F.O. Humber 2058A/19).

Enemy Intelligence.

3 Warships in Kattegat. It is reported Graded B.3. that at 1600/15 three German Warships believed cruisers, accompanied by other vessels, passed between Skaw and Gottenburg, course North.
Darkness prevented identification, but one warship seemed larger than others.
(D.D.I.C. 1229A/19 to C. in C. H.F., V.A.2., C.in C. Rosyth, H.Q.C.C.)

PRINZ EUGEN. Aircraft R/C indicates PRINZ EUGEN may have sailed at dusk today or be sailing during the night. (C. in C. Plymouth 1804/19 to WELSHMAN).
A.M. 1649A/16. PRINZ EUGEN was alongside the jetty to westward of Torpedo Boat Station.
2. At 1745/19 visual R/C reported EUGEN had left this berth. Remainder of harbour obscured by smoke. (D.D.I.C. 1851A/19).
Visual R/C at 1745 today showed PRINZ EUGEN had left her berth. As smoke cover obscured majority of harbour it cannot be said whether ship was sailed or not. (F.O.S. 2002A/19 to S/M's Area A.)

E-boat. Suspect E-boat in vicinity of Sheringham.
(C. in C. Nore 2059A/19).

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Yarmouth. Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1047A/19).
Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1151A/19).

8C. Buoy.
62C Buoy. Commodore of F.N. 81 reports No. 8C buoy light extinguished at 0200/18 and No. 62C buoy damaged and light extinguished a.m. 1100/18.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1212/19).
62C Buoy damaged. All superstructure missing.
(WESTMINSTER 1535A/19).

Harwich. Port now open.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1326A/19).

Gidoyamo Radio Beacon. Your 1353A/8. This beacon is not in operation.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 15220/19).

Brightlingsea. Port open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1555A/19).

Technical.

Recognition Procedure. Admiralty 514AZ/6th Sept. S.P. 02220(2) Art. 37. Sector System is not to be employed in recognition procedure between British and Soviet warships. (D.S.D. 1937/A/19).

Casualties and Defects.

H.34.
H.43. My 1714A/18.
Amend Para. 1 to read H.34 escorted by ALECTO approx. position 49° 52' N. 05° 10' W. proceeding to Falmouth. (F.O.S. 0049A/19).
A. When ready request you will sail H.43 and H.34 as follows. Routes H.43 to position 03, and H.34 to position 02.
B. Submarines should be escorted if possible to longitude of Lizard Head. They should remain to the eastward of this longitude until 1800A/19 and be clear either eastward or westward of the area between longitude 05° 30' W. and 06° 30' W. at 0800A/20.
(F.O.S. 1114A/19 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).
Arrival 1124/19 ALECTO and H.34.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1210/19).

KELLETT. KELLETT delayed Aberdeen for fitting temporary. piston ring for passage to Nore. Anticipated sailing 22/12. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1101/19).

/MACBETH....

MOST SECRET.

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19.12.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects-Contd.

MACBETH. Request you will convey to the Master, Officers, and ship's company of MACBETH the hearty congratulations of the Board of Admiralty on their safe arrival in harbour resulting from their stout-hearted endurance through a long period of discomfort and danger. (A.C.N.S. T. 1252A/19 to F.O.I.C. Belfast).

BLACKWATER. My S 1736/18. S.A. ranging of BLACKWATER unsatisfactory. Ship is returning to Port Edgar for necessary action. (Capt. I/C Port Edgar 1453/19).

KING HAAKON VII. MYRMIDON. Immediately on launching at Barclay Curles Shipyard Clydeholm this afternoon, S.S. KING HAAKON VII collided with S.S. MYRMIDON which ship was coming up river loaded. Damage to both ships highly probable. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1557/19).

SLEIPNER. Have developed condenser pump defect. Maximum speed reduced to 18 knots. Request survey on arrival at Sheerness. (SLEIPNER 1753/19).

REGENT. (? Portsmouth) sanctuary extended 15 miles to South and East in force from 0730 to 1200. Airborne fighter protection arranged weather permitting. (Capt. S.5. 1801A/19 to REGENT).
Sailed 1745 REGENT escorted by ELLESMERE. E.T.A. QZS 169 at 0900/20. Escort parts company at end of QZS 278 and returns Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth 1802/19).
My 1714A/18. Add para. (O). REGENT leaves Plymouth 1700A/19 for Portsmouth via QZS 169. S/M will be escorted until dark thence unescorted. (F.O.S. 1851A/19).
CHASER II leaves Spithead at 0900 at 14 knots tomorrow to transfer Flotilla Engineer Officer to you on meeting for engine trials vide F.O.S. 1802A/19. CHASER will remain in company as escort during trial. (Capt. S.5. 2107A/19 to REGENT).

ST. LOMAN. (Escort Trawler) SAXON QUEEN damaged. Report were struck on port bow by S.S. SAXON QUEEN at 1815 when on starboard side of Victoria Channel. Plates pierced below whale back to underwater damage. S.S. SAXON QUEEN returned to harbour. (ST. LOMAN 2007/19 to ANTRIM).

Tanker. Proceed with all despatch to assist Tanker on fire 270° Bardsey Island 5 miles at 2020A/19. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2114A/19 to AMSTERDAM).

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

P.Q.6. My 1424A/15th. Amend E.T.A. Kola Inlet 09000/20. (18th C.S. 0211C/19 to S.B.N.O. North Russia). Your 0211C/19. Anticipate local fog throughout Kola Inlet a.m. 20th, improving later and recommend E.T.A. 12300. If fog persists it is recommended that M/V's anchor south of east end Kildin Island. R/V for EDINBURGH with pilot vessel will be signalled and pilot will come on board. Pilot vessel will then lead EDINBURGH to berth using special direction finding apparatus. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 15400/19 to R.A. 18th C.S.)
Your 1424A. Escort arrangements made. Pilots will board EDINBURGH 12 merchant ships off Bolshomain Oleni in entrance of Kola Inlet. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 18310/18 to 18 C.S.)
My 15400/19. Following arrangements have been made.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 21060/19 to C.S.18).

F.N.82. Cancelled owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1020A/19).

B.B.14. Procedure outlined in your 1312A/18, para: 1, will start with B.B. 14. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1034A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

P.Q.7. SALAMANDER with BRITOMART proceed 1730 today to Seidis Fiord(s) Iceland passing west of Orkneys and East of Faroes thence north Iceland - Faroes Minch Barrier.
On arrival complete with fuel and await arrival of TARTAR and ICARUS. You will be required to provide escort for P.Q.7.
SHEFFIELD from northward expects to arrive Scapa 1300 tomorrow. (R.A.D. H.F. 1146A/19).

R.U.1. Sailing delayed 24 hours owing to bad weather. (N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1439N/19).

H.G. 76. If fuel permits join H.G. 76 routed as follows.
Estimated P.C.S. of convoy at 2000A/19, 39° 30' N. 19° 28' W., 320°, 7½ knots.
Remain with convoy until P.L.E. proceeding to Gibraltar on conclusion. H.G. 76 is being shadowed by two or more U-boats. (C. in C. W.A. 1509A/19 to WESTCOTT.)

/STAFFORDSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.12.1941. Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

STAFFORDSHIRE. Intend to sail S.S. STAFFORDSHIRE in company with FORTH from Rosyth for Clyde at 0200/28 escorted by CURACOA and WHADDON to Dunnet Head. I shall be glad if you would send two destroyers to take over this escort at 1500/28 as I cannot spare CURACOA and WHADDON from their East Coast convoy duties to go further to the westward. (C. in C. Rosyth 1517/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Zigzagging by M/V's. Admiralty message "H.J." Merchant ships routed independently or after dispersal from convoy are not to zigzag in the Atlantic when southward of 10° south. Admiralty message "H.D." is cancelled. C.A.M.S.I. 618 will be amended. (D.T.D. 1710Z/19).

EMPIRE FULMAR. SULTAN HISSAR. A.M. 1307A/11. EMPIRE FULMAR, 16 knots, conveying military stores to Suez via Freetown and the Cape, will be ready to leave Clyde on 22/12. Request you will sail her with the A.M.C's referred to in above message, escorted by ACTIVE and SULTAN HISSAR and local escort of one or if possible two other destroyers who should remain to prudent limit of endurance. SULTAN HISSAR is required to proceed via Cape to Mediterranean where she will be turned over to Turkish authorities as arranged by C. in C. Mediterranean. (D.O.D. H. 1712A/19).

O.N. 47. Task Unit Four .1 .3 (S.O. NIBLACK) sailed 1500 with Merchant Ship. (A.C.I.C. 1740N/19).

Incorrect Diversion of Ships. SUNFLOWER 1027/13 and BROKE's 0632/18. Four ships have been incorrectly diverted because of D.G. defects. Request the attention of escorts and commodores may be drawn to I.C.O.C. Number 4 last paragraph which was signalled to convoy ports abroad by A.M. 2008/26/2 for information of commodores. (D.T.D. 1927A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

F.S. 76. My 1420A/19. Returned to Humber L/F. Unable to contact. (F.O. Humber 2135A/19).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French Shipping. Passings 18/12. French Eastward, CEVENNES, THISBE, STRASBOURGEOIS, LEGASSE, MENGWEN, JOSEPH ELISE, KERPAPE, all full.
(V.A.C.N.A. 0923A/19 to Admty.)
Escorted by M/S ENGAGEANTE (D.O.R. 20/12.)

FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT, MATABELE. Left Ponta Delgada 0930 G.M.T./19th.
(N.C.S.O. P.Delgada 0958/19.)

Allied landing in Timor. Portuguese authorities here taking seriously Timor incident. If situation deteriorates there is a possibility of harbour facilities being curtailed.
(Ponta Delgada 1055/19 to D.N.I. for E.P.S.)

German ships visiting Valencia. My 1242/16. Following from Valencia (begins): My 1159/15, it is said German ships ordered to proceed French ex Italian ports. LISBOA (German) left before completioh loading, 1955/16 (ends).
(S.O.I. Gib., 1240A/19 to Admty. etc.)

FARADAY, etc for Freetown. Cancel my 2156A/17. The present moment appears opportune for sailing ships mentioned in your 1828A/16.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1248A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Cable Operations. My 1226/13/10 and 1948/18/11 present state of cable communications imposes following order of priority of repairs - (1) Fayal St. Vincent, (2) Waterville-Fayal 2, (3) Lisbon diversion, item (1) being of great importance. If escort cannot be spared for Fayal work request item (3) may be progressed to enable Channel connection to be effected for which cable ship is now available in U.K.
(D.S.D. 1249A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

0.24. Your 2100B/18 acknowledged. Proceed as routed my 1406A/18 adjusting speed to pass through 037° 05' 000° 50' W. at 1900/22 thence on surface arriving Gibraltar 1500/23. Bombing restrictions arranged. C. in C. Med. and V.A. Malta pass to Capt.(S) 1 and Capt. (S) 10.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1336A/19 to 0.24 (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, Capt.(S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, S.O. Force H)

/O.G. Convoys ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - contd.

O.G.Convoys. Your 1648A/18 (re intention to stop signalling O.G. Convoys) Concur.
(V.A.C.N.A., 1433A/19 to C. in C. W.A.)

Lisbon, shipping for evacuation. Your 1936A/18 and your 1937A/18. All ships are being sailed to their loading destination when ready. By 21/12 the only ships in Portuguese Ports will be MERKLAND at Lisbon and COMO at Oporto. My 2103/17 and my 1001/18 were sent as Embassy considered most urgent that ship should be kept for their own evacuation. Embassy were sending telegram on same lines to Governor, Gibraltar, but I have since learned this was cancelled as they considered my signal sufficient. Second part of my 2103/17 is based on my own considered opinion.
(N.C.S.O. Lisbon 1556/19 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

AUDACITY, F.W. shot down. Another F.W. shot down by AUDACITY's fighter.
(STORK 1650A/19 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)
Three F.W. aircraft have been active and there were indications that Convoy H.G.76 was sighted and reported for the benefit of U.Boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1651A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

O.24. Dutch S/M O.24 is to be withdrawn from patrol. When ready she is to be sailed from Gibraltar to the Far East passing through the Mediterranean. She should embark as much of her stores and spare gear as possible.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1746A/19 to F.O.C.N.A.)

P.35. My 1108A/16. Your escort is HELIOTROPE. Report if unable to comply within 1 hour. Several U. Boats operating in Western Approaches.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1806A/19 to P.35.)

DIDO. Your 1241A/18 E.T.A. 2300A/20 P.C. and S. at 0700A/20 035° 00' N. 011° 30' W. 084° 18.
(DIDO 2245Z/19 to S.O. Force H.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

M/V Aircraft recognition procedure.

Your 1645/3. Since its introduction no experience of this procedure has yet been obtained on S.A. Station.
(C. in C. S.A. 0818Z/19 to Admiralty (R) C. in C. East Indies.)

ENGADINE.

In W.S.14 has a cargo of 9 Swordfish 9 Sea Hurricane 2 Albacore and 5 Pegasus 30 engines. 2. Her original orders were to land 6 Swordfish at Freetown and remainder in Egypt. 3. Request you will sail ENGADINE independently for the Cape without delay in order to transfer 2 Albacore and 2 Sea Hurricane to INDOMITABLE. The 6 Swordfish for Freetown should be landed at the Cape. 4. Further signal will be made regarding onward movements of ENGADINE and disposal of remaining aircraft.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1216A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

Vichy S/Ms to escort convoy.

Report graded A.3. that 6 submarines are now at Diego Suarez and will escort convoy expected to sail January with orders to fire if intercepted. Confirmation is being sought.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1412B/19 to Admty.)

ATHENE.

My 1047A/14. ATHENE after arrival at Takoradi will disembark Hurricanes now embarked and embark 40 other Hurricanes. 2. She is then to be sailed independently as expeditiously as practicable to Bombay where she will disembark these Hurricanes. 3. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to report his intentions for implementing my 1047/14.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1635A/19 to C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. E.I.)

W.S.15.

Your 1637/18. Approved. 2. It is presumed this arrangement will allow one sloop to accompany W.S.15 from Freetown to Cape.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1636A/19 to C. in C. S.A.)

DULVERTON.

SOUTHWOLD 2000, not to Admiralty. DULVERTON docked 18/12 undocking p.m.Tuesday 23/12 sailing 1500Z/23. Following is intended programme arrive and leave (i) Mombasa p.m./28 (ii) Aden p.m. 2/1 (? anchoring) Suez a.m./6/1.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1810Z/19 to C. in C. Med.)

JAGUAR
UTMOST.

Departures 19/12 JAGUAR, arrivals UTMOST.
(N.O.i/c Malta 1821B/19.)

/Brazil ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - contd.

Brazil and Canadian Warships. Secretary General Spokesman for M. of F.A. informs me that if we have any Canadian Cruisers, Destroyers, or Canadian Ships of any kind which we might wish to use in these waters they could enter any Brazilian Port as often as they wish and stay as long as desirable.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1841Z/19, 1921Z/19 to Admty.)

Troop Transport. Have received a request from G.O.C. in C. for transport for one African brigade group from Lagos to Freetown as soon as possible after 1/1. Approx. number 536 Europeans and 6370 Africans with baggage and first line transport.
2. A similar brigade group has to be moved from Takoradi to Bathurst and of this about one third should be moved 21/1, one third 21/2 and one third 31/3. 3. Request returning Transports of suitable draft may be diverted to Lagos and Takoradi respectively for these movements.
4. Maintenance of above troops will require 2300 tons monthly from Lagos and Takoradi to Freetown and Bathurst.
(C. in C. S.A., 1937Z/19 to Admty.)

Mediterranean.

A/C Report. Target not located by 0100.
(A/C N.No.261 Squadron, No T.0.0/19 to Med. A/C (Call sign R 7 M.)

14 D.F. Cease hunting and return to Alexandria.
(? 0006B/19 to 14 D.F.(R) Capt. S.1 S.O.15 C.S.)
See also U-B Campaign.

M/Vs attacked. Albacores attacked 2 small merchant ships unsuccessfully in 33° 5' N. 14° 30' E. and 33° 5' N. 14° 7' E. at 2150 and 2217 respectively.
(Malta, 0105B/19 to Force B.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. 2 (?Merchant ships) 3 destroyers 32° 55' N. 13° 50' E. 290°, 14 knots, 2240.
(Malta, 0120B/19 to Force B.)

/D.14 ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

D.14

For information KINGSTON CYANITE contact 284° Ras-el-Tin 23 at 2350. Enter harbour in accordance with Cs in C. 0006/19.
(Alexandria 0124/19 to Capt. D. 14 (R) C.S.15.)

Enemy Units.

2 cruisers, 3 destroyers, 1 merchant ship, P.C. and S. 33° 4' N. 14° 13' E. 270° unknown at 2210.
(Malta 0132/19 to Force B.)

NEPTUNE AURORA and KANDAHAR mined.

NEPTUNE mined 3 times, AURORA once in estimated position 033° 10' 013° 12'. NEPTUNE lost all steam and power. PENELOPE, KANDAHAR and LIVELY standing by. My course and speed 015° 16 knots, HAVOCK and LANCE in company.
(AURORA 0145B/19 to V.A. Malta.)
NEPTUNE and KANDAHAR mined, unable to steam in 033° 15' N. 013° 30' E. Unable to approach them through minefield. Suggest Sunderland or submarine to sent to boats North of minefield, E.T.A. 1100. LIVELY in company.
(PENELOPE, 0530/19 to V.A. Malta.)
Destroyer (?number 28) sinking 035° Tripoli 30 miles, crew aboard.
(A/C duty H., 1026/19 to Hal Far.)
Arrived AURORA, PENELOPE, LANCE, LIVELY, HAVOCK. Report later.
(V.A. Malta 1215B/19 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)
JAGUAR is being sent to your assistance. Maryland will attempt to locate you before dark. If possible special Wellington will locate you after dark. Do not break W/T silence unless you are sinking or are attacked, in which case inform JAGUAR.
(V.A. Malta,1452B/19 to KANDAHAR.)
KANDAHAR report that at 1300B still afloat drifting about one knot to East. Consider she should be clear of minefield by midnight by which time JAGUAR should be in touch. Order to tow if possible. No sign of NEPTUNE.
(V.A. Malta 1501B/19 to C. in C. Med.)
At 1700 KANDAHAR 058° Tripoli (Libya) 25 miles, down by stern, signalled S O S, rafts out, visibility 10 miles.
(V.A. Malta 1845B/19 to JAGUAR.)
The following has been read, addressed A/C using call sign 8 JHD: Have you located KANDAHAR?
(A/C call sign R 7 M, 2359/19.)

/10 Corvette ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

10 Corvette Group. 25 A/S Group.	10th Corvette Group is to form part of Western Desert Escort Force and 25th A/S Group is to be employed on escort duties in Eastern Med. as ordered by N.O.i/c Syria. R.A. Alexandria is requested to arrange exchange of duties. (C. in C. Med., 1113B/19 to Alexandria C. and C.O. etc.)
Movements.	Arrivals 18/12 Tug ST. MONANCE, FLAMINGO. Greek Destroyer IERAX, M.L.1017. SOUTHERN SEA, FARNDALE, FALK. Departures 18/12 THORGRIM, SNAPDRAGON, THORN. Arrivals 19/12 NAIAD, EURYALUS, SIKH, MAORI, LEGION, KIMBERLEY, JERVIS, NIZAM, KIPLING, ISAAC SWEERS. Departures 19/12 HASTY, HOTSPUR, GRIFFIN. (S.O.I. Alexandria 1120B/19 to Admty. etc.)
Enemy Units, Benghazi.	Aircraft report 1 (? merchant ship) 9,000 tons in Benghazi. 2 cruisers and 2 destroyers patrolling to seaward. (N.L.O. 8th Army 1156B/19 to C. in C. Med.)
Losses of landing craft.	Since my 1410B/5/10 (N.T.) following are registered numbers of landing craft lost in Mediterranean up to 1/12. T.L.C's Nos.2 and 7 total 2 A.L.Cs, S.L.Cs, M.L.Cs and Eurekas nil. (C. in C. Med., 1245B/19.)
Benghazi mined and bombed.	Night 18/19 Dec., mines laid by 1 Wellington Squadron in entrance to Benghazi harbour in connection with approach of Italian Naval Convoy reported by Malta R/C. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1247/19.) Operation covered by further 3 Squadrons which bombed harbour with 4,000 lb bombs and Berka Aerodrome also objectives in Benghazi Town. Minelaying reported as accurate and successful. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1303/19.)

/Escort ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Escort for Soviet Tankers.

Your 2355/16 (?At present) with all our forces engaged in attacking enemy supplies to Libya and covering our own lines, it is not possible for me to hold out any hope of providing escort for these ships. It might be pointed cut that essence of success lies in these vessels making the journey by short rushes and seizing (?favourable) opportunities caused by weather or other diversions. In consequence their time of emerging from the Aegean can neither be (?ascertained) nor predicted and this makes it all the more difficult to cover them as force cannot be kept waiting on chance that (?ships) may slip out. 2. I fully sympathise with desire for escort and anything that is possible will be done but it is unlikely to be very much. Admty. pass to Admi. Miles.
(C. in C. Med., 1307B/19 to Admty.)

UTMOST M/V hit 13/12.

(1) UTMOST reported at 0131/13 in 039° 47' 017° 22' fired 4 torpedoes at 2 large Northbound M/Vs speed 15 knots escorted by 2 destroyers. One appeared GARIBALDI class. One hit, followed by counter attack of 40 charges, this hit corroborated by UPRIGHT. 0230 one prolonged explosion, result unobserved. (2) At 1510/13 in 039° 44' 017° 30' sighted one 6000 ton M/V course 130° escorted by 2 destroyers, 3 aircraft, out of range. (3) At 0355/14 sighted large transport Northbound in 040° 02' 017° 22', out of range. (4) During Northern Patrol 8 destroyers observed to use course 210° from Taranto for 10 miles then alter to 160°. (5) At 1515/14 in 040° 00' 017° 03' one destroyer and small M/V Northbound sighted out of range. (6) At 2035/14 in 039° 50' 017° 26' considered from (? datum) that 2 heavy ships with destroyers passed out of sight to Westward. (7) At 2234/16 fired 4 torpedoes at one Southbound cruiser, escorted by 2 destroyers, missed. 2240 several destroyers heard. 2310 3 heavy units passed overhead at 160 revolutions.
(Capt. S. 10, 1330B/19 to Capt. S.1.)

MARIANNA S.Ps.

Auxiliary vessel sailed German (ex Greek) MARIANNA, gross tonnage 29 speed 5 knots transit from Piraeus to Varna 18/12. Please being into force SP 02341 number 1284.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 1515B/19, 1746/19 to S.O.I.Med.

/A/S Protection

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.12.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

A/S Protection of Aden. Your 1347B/9. Admiralty appreciation is that there is at present little danger of attack by German U-Boats and only remote possibility of attack by Japanese U-Boats.
2. Should Malay barrier fall or should the Axis acquire bases in Madagascar attack by Axis U-Boats would become possible. The latter possibility is being carefully watched.
3. Retaliatory attack by Vichy submarines from Madagascar will remain a possibility until Jibuti surrenders but there is no evidence that numbers have been increased or that orders for more offensive action have been issued.
4. Attack by raider is in all circumstances considered improbable owing to the natural reluctance of such vessels to venture into areas where evasion after attack is difficult.
5. Unless you have positive evidence of threat from Japanese S/Ms extending westward across the Indian Ocean the blockade of Jibuti should take precedence before A/S defence of ships at Aden.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1545A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

RAMB IV. H.M.G's declaration of 2/7/1941, stated that RAMB IV would be detained for a minimum period of 6 months. As this period has almost expired request report: (a) how the Medical, religious and hospital staff of the ship, if any, were disposed of and where they are now; (b) whether there has been any further interference with British hospital ships; (c) your remarks on question whether RAMB IV should be released or detained for a further period.
(Head of M. 1546A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

Enemy Units. 2 battleships and 4 destroyers mean course 350° speed 20 knots position 039° 05' 017° 32'.
(P.31 1658B/19 to Capt.(S) 10, V.A. Malta.)

M.N.B.D.O. A1/39955 A 19/12. At recent conference with C. in C. Med., it was agreed desirable that M.N.B.D.O. should be brought up to strength. Request arrangements made for 280 A.A. and 220 S/L total 500 personnel to be included in December convoy. Further draft of 600 in January followed by drafts of 350 in successive Convoys to complete. Details with M.E.L.O. now en route to U.K. Admiralty pass to A.G.R.M.
(Mideast, 1700/19 to Troopers (R) Admty.)

/Malta ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Malta Air Report.

7 enemy aircraft crossed coast 2111 and 0059 hours night 18/19th bombs land and sea. Luqa bombed. Damage to main runway and Wellingtons. Casualties.
0843 hours Hurricane escort Naval Units attacked 3 JU.88s, 1 damaged 1 shot down on land, 1 crew dead 2 injured.
18th. 6 Blenheims attacked bombs and machine guns 1310 hours 2 Schooners escorted 2 aircraft East Melita 31 miles, bombs dropped mast height, no hits observed. 1 enemy aircraft attacked and hit. P.M. searches Italian Fleet sighted 1500 hours 4 Battleships 8 D/Rs 072°. Homs 170 miles course north east 18 knots. 1314 hours 3 Cruisers 6 Destroyers 3 M/Vs 8000 tons 072°. Homs 85 miles course west 14 knots. Special Wellington night 18/19th found convoy dispersed North Homs. 6 Albacores despatched attack. 1 returned engine trouble. Remainder dropped 4 torpedoes scoring 2 hits on 2 M/Vs. 1 Albacore missing. Searches unsuccessful. 5 Swordfish despatched later as could not reach target in high wind at time Albacore attack. Nothing found. 1 aircraft burnt out on landing. Crew unhurt. 7 Mark 2 Wellingtons Tripoli. 1 returned mechanical trouble. 3 bombed town diversion for 3 others laying mines. 3 mines laid just inside the harbour, 3 just outside in approach. 14 Wellingtons for bombing attack on ships when entering harbour grounded by bombing attack Luqa.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1700, 1721/19.)

SOKOL.

Leave patrol 0001B/20 and proceed through 039° 05' 017° 25' to spend daylight hours within 10 miles Stilo on 20/12 and Spartivento Cape on 21/12 thence to carry out anti U-boat patrol off Augusta on 22nd leaving there to pass through 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive Malta before 1700B following day. Any submarines encountered may be attacked.
(Capt. S. 10, 1705B/19 to SOKOL.)

PERSEUS.

My 1521B/14, remain on route ordered adjusting speed to arrive Sanctuary 0530B/20 small convoy escorted by destroyers and trawlers, E.T.A. 0630B from West on inshore route and another from East at 0900B.
(Capt. S.1, 1721B/19 to PERSEUS.)

/Insurance ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - contd.

Insurance of 8 ships for Turkey.

Agreed that four of the eight ships would be delivered now and four in one year's time, and that liability of Turkish Govt. for Insurance would not commence until the ships have been delivered in a Turkish port. My 1152B/12/11 refers.
(N.A. Angora 1758B/19 to Adty.)

UPRIGHT, patrol report.

My 1821B/18 part 1.
(i) UPRIGHT report from 6th to 9th off Messina no target sighted, E-Boat patrols constantly day and night. (ii) Near position 39 27 17 24 between 11 and 14 Dec. sighted 2 destroyers northbound, 3 southbound, all speeds 20 knots probably ferry service, passed out of range. Throughout this period 800 ton ?schooner remained in vicinity. (iii) At 0212 13th in 40 09 17 04 fired 4 mark 8 torpedoes at 2 northbound ships with overlapping continuous silhouettes, escorted 1 destroyer. 3 hits on loading ship 1 on other.
(Capt.(S) 10 1817B/18.)
Note: Part 1 only received.

Benghazi mining and bomb raid.

Night 18/19, 42 Wellingtons operated, 5 bombed Benghazi Harbour to cover mine laying, bombs including 3 of 4000 lbs. bursting on Moles and Harbour works, damage unobserved. 7 bombed M.T. concentrated near Benghazi starting many fires among continuous stream of traffic. 10 mines laid accurately in area off harbour entrance prescribed by Navy.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1831/19.)

Libya.

Military Situation Reports.
(C. in C. M.E., 1836/19, 2240/19 to W.O.)
See Lion Copy.

2 U/Bs.

Attacked by JERVIS and KINGSTON CYANITE, both considered U-Boat sunk or seriously damaged.
(C. in C. Med., 1833/19) See U-Boat Campaign.

DERNA.

Departure 18 Genoa.
(Barcelona 1845/19.)

Enemy Units.

3 cruisers unknown number of destroyers P.C. and S. 039° 05' 017° 29' 350° 16 knots at 1730B. Unknown number of ships passed (corrupt group) (Possibility of CAPE BAZARUTO?) proceeding northwards in approx. 039° 19' 017° 47' at (?12
(UNBEATEN 1901B/19 to Capt. S. 10.)
2 Battleships, 2 Cruisers, 10 destroyers, P.C. and S. 039° 14' 017° 49', 295°, (?20) knots at 1200B. (SOKOL 2110B/19 to Capt. S.10, V.A. Mal
(V.A. Malta 2332B/19 to C. in C. Med.)

/Following ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units - contd.

Following from UNBEATEN: 3 cruisers unknown number of destroyers P.C. and S. 039° 05' 017° 29' 350° 16 knots at 1730B. Unknown number of ships passed over northward in approx. 039° 19' 017° 47' at 1200B.
(V.A. Malta 2119B/19 to Med. Fleet.)

E.Boats.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 6 E-boats 33° 10' N. 14° 00' E. 60° 20 knots.
(A/C using call sign 8 JHD 2255/19.)

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S. 12Z.B. Your 0454Z/6. It is desired that ROYAL SOVEREIGN should accompany W.S. 12Z.B. throughout as much of its passage as possible. (A.C.N.S.(F), 0055A/19 to C. in C. E.I.) Intended arrangements for sailing and escort of W.S. 12Z follow in my 1234Z/19 (N.T. in W.D.) (ii) Request early information of date convoy and ROYAL SOVEREIGN will be ready to leave Durban. (C. in C. E.I., 1220Z/19 to N.O.I.C.Simonstown, (R) Admty., etc.) Reply: N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0144Z/20.

Troops for Burma. Ref. 58739 (M.O.12) 13/12. I agree to divert to Malaya Indian Inf. Bde. group due to sail 22nd from Bombay to Burma. Request adequate protection may be provided. The above subject to approval of Viceroy who is being consulted. (C. in C. India, 0223/19 to W.O.)

Burma Situation Report. No enemy activity. Some doubt as to presence of Japanese motor boats Victoria Point air R/C ordered.
1/7 Gurkhas arrived Rangoon and proceed tonight to Moulmein.
(G.O.C. Burma, 0410/19.)

B.M. 9A, B.M. 9B. My 0759/14 and my 0726/17 to S.T.O. Rangoon, your 1512/18 to F.O.C.R.I.N. B.M.9A will now sail 0830Z/21 (? dash) five personnel ships DEVONSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, ETHIOPIA, VASOWA, SHEAF CREST.
B.M. 9B to sail 0830Z/22, 1 personnel ship EL MADINA and 3 M.T. ships RISALDAR, ARLETTA, JALARAJAN. All ships for Singapore not Rangoon. TALMA will also sail in B.M.9B for Colombo.
(P.S.T.O. India, 0729Z/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

Towage of F./Dock. Your 1440/18.
(1) There is certain to be some delay before this programme can be put into effect and I hope you will find it possible to complete the first stage of the towing (ie. to Karachi) while the tugs are still available.
(2) Request you will inform me (A) What gear and personnel required for towing is still lacking. (B) When you anticipate preparations will be completed.
(C. in C. E.I., 1018Z/19 to S.N.O.P.G.)
Reply: 1450Z/21.

/Troop ...

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Troop movement.

Following move is being arranged. Bombay Singapore 31/12. Five personnel ships CAP ST. JACQUES, ISLAMI, ROHNA, KHEDIVE, ISMAIL and three M.T. ships SUBADAR, JALARATNA, JALAVIHAR. There is a possibility this move may proceed to Rangoon this will be confirmed later.
(S.S.T.O. India, 1049Z/19.)

B.A. 12.

My 1137/11th. My 1245/16. Your 0814/17 not to D. of S.T. All 3 ships of B.A. 12 now unable to sail until 28/12 through a fire in bunkers of CITY OF PARIS and further engine repairs to ASCANIUS and YOMA. Can escort be provided on 28/12?
(S.S.T.O. India, 1125Z/19 to C. in C. E.I.)

S.D.1 Drafts for Burma and Malaya.

S.D.1. Ref. your 58739 (M.O.12) (0330/18) not to C. in C. E.I. and in furtherance of our 96278/G dated 18/12. I propose loading another Brigade Group at Bombay for Burma ready to sail about 1/1. If the situation demands this Brigade Group could be diverted to Malaya but I am unwilling to agree this being done at the moment. In addition I propose loading about 8/1 as many of the drafts and other Units required for Malaya as I can find subject to shipping and escort being available. Will C. in C. E.I. confirm as regards escort as soon as possible.
(C. in C. India, 1700/19 to W.O.)
In continuation my 21278/G 18/12 (0223/19) and reference Easfar 66/7 18/12 (1431/18).
S.D.1. Have no objection to diversion of H.T. WEST POINT containing infantry brigade group 18 Division to join convoy sailing from Bombay to Malaya about 24 inst. if Chiefs of Staff so desire.
Units will have no M.T. and we do not know if unit equipment is loaded in same ship or not and therefore doubt if proposal is practicable.
(C. in C. India, 1700/19 to W.O.)
59101 Q(M)2.c. 19/12.
Following summary may be useful if you are considering despatch of part or all of 18 Division to Malaya. Personnel are in six American transports of which 5 in W.S.12X are expected Bombay about 31/12. Sixth, ORIZABA with part of 54 Inf. Bde. etc. is expected Bombay with W.S.12Z.B. about 6/1. Of American ships, three are much too large and all are too crowded to proceed to Malaya. Division who will have been on board over two months must therefore land Bombay. Any onward movement by sea must be in shipping collected by P.S.T.O. India. This will affect other movement and we should like your proposals as agreed with P.S.T.O.
(W.O., 2355/19 to C. in C. India.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Lights.

Nr. 172 W.D.B. Southern Burma, Tenasserim. All navigational lights on Tenasserim Coast have been extinguished.
(R.A. Malaya, 0141Z/19 to China Station and R.F.A.S.)

Hong Kong.

Controlled minefield fired but 4 loops miss-fired. Both mine control stations and fixed defence stations attacked.
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0339Z/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F.)
020442. Unnumbered cipher. Situation very grave, deep penetration made by enemy. All cipher books and drums destroyed except W. General reciphering tables 16. Latter's will be reported in clear.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 0836/19 to W.O. Recd. in War Reg. at 0930/19.)
020444. Unnumbered cipher 19/12. Last remaining cipher book and table being destroyed after this message.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong, 1019/19 to W.O., Recd. by hand from W.O. at 0925/19.)
020453. Cipher 19/12. W/T station being abandoned due to adjustment of line (? previous to) 1801 from Hong Kong.
(G.O.C. Hong Kong via Singapore, 1019/19 to W.O. Received in W.R. at 0930/19.)
Following communiques issued 1030 today. The enemy shelled residential area welfare Victoria at dusk yesterday evening and did some damage to property. After dark they increased the severity of their bombardment on the Eastern section of the North shore of the Island and some enemy troops succeeded in landing in the neighbourhood of North Point and Taikoo during the night. The enemy are now being engaged by our forces. 1430 P.M. Counter measures against Japanese landing parties continued in operations. The Governor has sent following message to all H.M. Forces in Hong Kong the time has come to advance against the enemy. The eyes of the Empire are upon you. Be strong, be resolute and do your duty. Mark Young, Governor.
1730 P.M. Operations against the enemy landing parties on the Island are proceeding. Ends.
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 1023Z/19.)

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Your 0856Z/18th. Request LE TRIOMPHANT be sailed for Batavia in accordance with programme proposed in her 0025Z/17th.
(C. in C. E.F., 0433Z/19 to A.C.N.B.)

/Malaya ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Malaya Evacuations.

As there will be a considerable number of women and children who wish to be evacuated from Malaya for South Africa and U.K. propose sending them in MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE and ?those for Australia in ORION. There are also not more than 100 American citizens who wish to return to U.S. Request instructions if they should be embarked in MARNIX VAN ST. ALDEGONDE or ORION and for what port.
(F.O. Malaya 0437Z/19 to D.of S.T.).

Malaya

Situation Report. (Army and Air) (Adv. H.Q. Malaya 0456/19 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Routeing of shipping.

My 1030/17. Please add to para. 1 C.Z.M. is continuing to send on independently ships with cargo for Singapore which arrive at N.E.I. ports. (C.in C. E.F. 0507Z/19).

Merchant shipping movements.

Your 1915/10 and A.C.N.B. 0737/18 to C.in C. E.F. only. Sailings from Australia have been held up since 11/12. Propose that a trial convoy should be run from Melbourne sailing about 28/12 if A.C.N.B. can provide ocean escort as far as Christmas Island without prejudicing troop convoy escorts. Will A.C.N.B. please remark if situation deteriorates while convoy is on passage it would be necessary to divert it elsewhere.
Similarly it is proposed to run a convoy from Colombo via Sunda Straits as soon as convenient. Will C.in C. E.I. please remark. The importance of not taking escorts that may be required for important troop convoys must be kept in mind. Unless very important warlike stores are being carried consider one eight inch cruiser or two old six inch cruisers should suffice for ocean escort. Intend to continue sailing ships from Singapore independently for the present ends. (C.in C. E.F. 0513Z/19 to Admty. A.C.N.B. C.in C. E.I. N.Z.N.B. repeated C.Z.M. (3HM).)

PRINCE OF WALES. REPULSE.

Remarks on air attacks on PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE 10/12.
(2) T/B's were twin engined Monoplanes Naval 96 type IE shore based. Probably H.L.B.S. were same type.
(3) 4 T/B's Squadrons each of 9 aircraft were used. 3 H.L.B. attacks were made possibly all by same squadron.
(4) H.L.B. attack in tight formation 10,000 feet simultaneous dropping of one bomb per aircraft very accurate.
(5) Torpedoes dropped at range between 1000 and 2000 yards from height noticeably greater than

/we.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

PRINCE OF WALES REPULSE -Contd.

we do. Torpedoes ran very straight track readily visible. No indication of pistols were other than contact.
(6) PRINCE OF WALES hit by 4 possibly 5 torpedoes and one bomb. REPULSE hit by 5 torpedoes and one bomb. About 8 aircraft shot down.
(7) First hit on PRINCE OF WALES abreast exploded 3 Turret disastrously putting both port shafts out of action, steering gear failed, list 13°.5, 5.25 inch Turret out of action owing to power failure and or (corrupt group).
(C.in C. E.F. 0859Z/19 to Admty.).

Movements.

Singapore arrival 19/12 DANAE departure DRAGON DURBAN VAMPIRE.
(S.O.(I) Singapore 0944Z/19).

Singapore.

The port of Singapore is closed at night. Ships arriving after dark will be fired on if they cross long. 104° 25' E. from the Eastward or long. 103° 30' E. from the Westward or if they approach within three miles of Pan Reef from the southward.
(R.A. Malaya 1007Z/19).

Hong Kong.

Part Two of my 1157Z/19.
Strength unknown but described as possessing packed artillery and mortars. Stanley Peninsular and Hill to Northwards as far as a line running approx. E. and W. deepening Stanley Mound held by 1 Bat. of Canadians, 2 Companies of Indian Infantry and Scratch Force Artillery and M.G's. Otherwise situation East Tai Hang-Wong Nei Chong Gap and Repulse Bay Road Line obscure. Probably Lyemun and Saiwan over run but Collinson and D'Aguilar Artillery personnel successfully withdrawn to Stanley after destroying heavy guns and equipment.
(Part 3 follows 1131Z/19).
Part 4 of my 1157Z/19.
Air activity relatively slight and consists mainly of R/C although an attack was made on Mount Davis with not more than 6 aircraft. Japanese will undoubtedly try to ferry more men over tonight and continue infiltration but I hope to be in a position to launch a general counter attack tomorrow at dawn. Exhaustion of troops, shortage of ammunition and difficulties of communication all present serious problems.
Part 5 follows. (Cdre. Hong Kong, 1150Z/10 to Admty.). War Reg. Note. Only these two parts of 1157Z/19 received.
From Fervour During night of 18/19th. Japanese suceeded in effecting landing in Taikoo area and Lyemun whence they steadily infiltered over hill to Wong Nei Chong Gap and Tytam Gap which they

/occupied.....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong -Contd.

occupied this morning.
Strength unknown but described as possessing packed artillery and mortars. Stanley Peninsular and Hill to northwards as far as a line running approx. E. and W. deepening Stanley Mound held by one battalion of Canadians, two Companies of Indian Infantry and scratch force Artillery and M.G's. Otherwise situation East Tai Hang-Wong Nei Chong Gap and Repulse Bay Road Line obscure. Probably Lyemun and Saiwan overrun but Collinson and D'Aguilar Artillery personnel successfully withdrawn to Stanley after destroying heavy guns and equipment.
During afternoon counter attack was attempted with torpedo boats to regain possession of Mount Parker, Mount Butler and Jardines Island but proved abortive owing to exhaustion of troops, heavy shelling in Leighten Hills area and Kenneddy Roads and breakdown on inter communication. Nevertheless this peninsula stopped further enemy advance and position temporarily stabilised at nightfall. Our M.T.B's made three separate attacks on enemy landing craft in Kowloon Bay and destroyed two losing two boats themselves.
Air activity relatively slight and consists mainly of R/C's although an attack was made on Mount Davis with not more than six aircraft.
Japanese will undoubtedly try to ferry more men over tonight and continue infiltration but I hope to be in a position to launch a general counter attack tomorrow at dawn. Exhaustion of troops, shortage of ammunition and difficulties of communication all present serious problems.
Civilian population surprisingly calm and Chungking representatives offer of services of thousand trained men has been accepted. Fresh increase of fifth column snipers and grenade throwing activity reported. Auxiliary Police strengthened to cope with this. Enemy has again given conclusive proof of a very high standard of night training.
(Cdre. Hong Kong 1157Z/19).

Air Report.

W.X. 4617 Part 1. Oprep/5 19/12.
Reference your X.709 14/12 following for C.A.S. from A.O.C.
Daily Operational Summary to 1030Z 19/12.
(H) Armed R/C locate and attack Jap. force Iri (Miri?) area from Sinkawang 6 aircraft bombed Miri from 14,000 feet, dropped 12 bombs, 300 K.G. each 1 direct hit and 1 near miss on cruiser and direct hit and 2 near misses on ship possibly large transport, seaplane carrier, or aircraft carrier. Aircraft attacked by floatplanes, 1 shot down, 1 broke off burning, A/A fire from ship only not heavy. 1 Glen Martin shot down. Following seen at Miri, 3 cruisers 4 destroyers, 3 transports 7 flying boats close together.
(A.H.Q. F.E. 1330/19).

/Penang.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. -Contd.

Penang. Evacuation. Preliminary report from Comdr. Penang Fortress. (Adv. H.Q. Malaya 1756/19 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

Pontianak bombed. Herewith Part 2 my Oprep/5 19/12 from A.H.Q.F.E. begins.
G.H.Q. Batavia reported at 0650Z received 0725Z Pontianak continuously bombed since 0500Z by landplanes and floatplanes and city destroyed. Sinkawang reported 16 aircraft bombed Pontianak and 15 aircraft bombed Kuching aerodrome-petrol store burning. High level bombing attacks on LIPIS and S.S. SHINIA 14/12 and 16/12 delivered with unusual accuracy 3 bombs reported by passengers having erred 12 yards or less. 2 air raids Ipoh slight damage.
(A.H.Q.F.E. 1855/19).

America and West Indies.

Units for Taskforce 3. Your 1741/16 to Admiralty only. The intention of my 1919/15 was that British forces under your orders on A.W.I. Station should without further instructions from Admty. be placed at disposal of C.in C. Lant for employment with Taskforce 3.
(2) Further signal will be made regarding VAN KINSBERGEN.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 0057A/19 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
A.M. 0057/19 para.2. Dutch Authorities agree that for the present VAN KINSBERGEN should be placed at the disposal of Cinclant for employment with Taskforce 3.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2008A/19 to C.in C. A.W.I.).

BITTERSWEET Your 1440R/17. BITTERSWEET can now arrive Charleston 31/12 if this is acceptable.
(C.C.N.F. 0057Z/19 to B.A.R.M.).
Your 0557/19. BITTERSWEET is now expected Wednesday 31/12. (B.A.R.M. 1402R/19 to C.C.N.F.).

WARSPITE. B.A.R.M's 1002/17, not to all addressees. Reply to your 1720R/5 is contained in A.M. 0104A/17. A.M. 0138A/17 to B.A.R.M. only refers. (2) Arrangements for exchange of ammunition contained in A.M. 2201/27/10 para. 2. remain in force.
(3) A.M. 2242A/9. Concur that visit to Vancouver is now undesirable. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0058A/19 to B.A.R.M.).

/MIMOSA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -Contd.

MIMOSA ALYSSE ACONIT.	A.M. 1811A/18. If Admiral Muselier agrees request MIMOSA, ALYSSE, and ACONIT be sailed to arrive St. John's N.F. a.m./28. (C.C.N.F. 0232Z/19 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).
S.S. HOEGH MERCHANT.	Following from N.C.S.O. San Francisco begins:- Navy reports:- HOEGH MERCHANT (Norg) has been sunk 29 miles from Cape Makapu 16/12 Master states ship suffered internal explosion and suspects sabotage. U.S. Navy has been asked to investigate. 0057Z/18. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0331Z/19).
ARCHER	Your 1420R/17. Concur in visit to Jamaica. 2. Route via Crooked Island and Windward Passage. B.A.R.M. pass to ARCHER. (C.in C. A.W.I. 10320/19 to B.A.R.M.).
Oil for Martinique.	Gov. Trinidad's tel. 1261 of 15th to S.of S. Shell Co. requesting permission to make urgent shipments to Martinique 250 tons paraffin in Venezuela tanker leaving here 20th. Should shipment be made as no further opportunity will occur for several weeks? (N.O.I.C. Trinidad 1057Q/19 to C.in C. A.W.I.). Your 1057Q/19. In view of improvement in situation shipment is approved. (C.in C. A.W.I. 16420/19 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).
PRINCE DAVID.	Arrived 0800R/19 and is fuelling at Cristobal by order of U.S. Naval Authorities. (N.C.S.O. Colon 1112/19 to Admty.).
Oil Ship for Martinique.	My 2142R/17, ship sailed 0200 G.M.T./19 cargo 3000 ton fuel oil for Guadaloupe and Martinique. (S.O.I. Kingston 1131R/19 to C.in C. A.W.I.).
S.C.42 KENOGAMI	Your 1831/18. Request you will consider latter alternative as intention. Periodic Summary No.11 para. 39 also refers. Letter follows. (D.A.S.W. 1151A/19 to C.C.N.F.).
S.C.61.	(1) Task Unit 4.1.16 NIAGARA (S.O.) DIANTHUS, LETHBRIDGE, NANAIMO, MATAPEDIA, GALT, SOREL. (C.C.N.F. 1318Z/19 to Admty. etc.).
"Q" Messages reporting.	Your 2214./16. Concur. (D.T.D. 1328A/19 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

/ILEX.....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

ILEX.	Your 1649/3/11. Request confirmation date of arrival ILEX. (B.A.R.M., 1400R/19 to Admty.)
?	Your 2359Z/12 (N.T. W.R. ? 2359Z/16 or 2359Z/17 (Both Most Secret)). This was passed by Ottawa to Washington on 15/12 in accordance with arrangements for passing Vesca information. This is presumably source of United States advice. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1434Z/19 to S.O.(I) Esquimalt.)
S.S. TOVELIL.	My 2137Z/18th. TOVELIL arrived Clarenville N.F. 18/12. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1501Z/19.)
BAHRAM. (French)	Departure 18th Guadaloupe 19th. (St. Thomas V.I., 1537/19 to M. of W.T.)
S.S. EMMY.	My 2137Z/18th. Greek EMMY arrived St. John's N.F. 18/12. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1541Z/19.)
U.S. Air Patrol.	Task group 3.3. 6 planes commenced patrol on 13/12 sea area bounded by lines drawn as follows: Trinidad to Bahia, to Sao Paulo Docks, to Trinidad. (Opnav, 1600/19 to Adty.)
EMPIRE MARLOW.	Request Salvage Tug for freighter EMPIRE MARLOW (Group Missing) from O.N.47 who has lost propeller. Am standing by in approx. 059° 11' N. 027° 11' W. Westerly gale. (TRAIL, 1630Z/19 to A.C.I.C.)
PORTLAND, REGENSBURG (German)	Report received from Callao and Venezuela that German ships PORTLAND, REGENSBURG sailed or about to sail Bordeaux or other European port to South America. Grading of intelligence awaited. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1701R/19 to Admty., etc.) Comment. PORTLAND left Talcahuano, Chile on 30/1/1941 and arrived at Bordeaux at end of March. On 18/10 she was reported in dock at Bordeaux, and loading a general cargo. REGENSBURG left Kobe on 22/4 and arrived at Bordeaux on 27/7. No later information of the two ships has been received.

/PROTEUS ...

MOST SECRET

19.12.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

PROTEUS, NEREUS. — Of three ships carrying Bauxite St. Thomas to Portland (Maine) one only Dutch HERMES has arrived. PROTEUS, British, is 21 days overdue and NEREUS, British, is three days overdue. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1846Z/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

O.N. 48. — Task Unit 4.1.12 designated comprising ST. LAURENT (.S.O.), HEPATICA, PICTOU, BUTOUCHE, MOOSEJAW and BATTLEFORD. (Opnav, 1900/19 to Admty.)

SURCOUF. — Your 12420/13. At request of Admiral Muselier SURCOUF is being held in Halifax until his return to that port. From conversation with Muselier, probable she will sail for Freetown shortly after his arrival on 21/12. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2006Z/19 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

West Indies. — Following seven contacts on enemy subs. have occurred in West Indies and along Atlantic Seaboard during past week. 13/12 sound contact and torpedo sighted at 1930 G.C.T. in 40-17 N. 72-16 W. 13/12 probably erroneous contact in 24-08 N. 79-10 W. 14/12 BROOKLYN planes attacked sub. in 16-07 N. 60-12 W. at 1700 G.C.T., hits claimed. 17/12, sound contact and depth charge attack in 36-49 N. 75-27 W. inconclusive. 17/12 periscope reported in 13-58 N. 60-10 W. not positive. 17/12 good sound contact and depth charge attack about sunset in 14-46 N. 59-16 W. results unknown. 18/12 conning tower reported sighted by plane at 1350 G.C.T. in 25-50 N. 79-50 W. (Opnav, 2007/19 to C. in C. A.W.I., Admty.)

PENOLVER. — My 2002/17 (2022 intended). Signal received from PENOLVER states due to arrive Hampton Roads p.m./18 considerable weather damage. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 2012Z/19 to Admty.)

4 warships sighted. — Yankee Clipper reports sighting 4 warships described as heavy cruisers or battleships in line ahead accompanied by one destroyer in 23.55 N. 16.03 W. at 1200Z/16 steering N.E. or S.W. (C. in C. A.W.I., 2109Q/19 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

Martinique Patrol. — BROOKLYN, WILSON, leave Martinique Patrol Stations 19th for New York, arrive 24th. (Opnav, 2200/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

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19.12.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

LEANDER. Departure Suva on escort duty due Auckland 0800Z/22.
(N.Z.N.B., 0650Z/19.)

ACHILLES, LEANDER. My 0831M/13 not to all addressees.
If ACHILLES is being spared for escorting EMPRESS OF CANADA anticipate LEANDER will be available to leave Suva p.m./27 to join striking force.
(N.Z.N.B., 1137M/19 to A.C.N.B., F.O.C. Aust. Sqdn.)

Recognition Signals. My 1002Z/19 (Allocation of British Signal letters to Free French shipping wearing Red Ensign. N.T. in W.D.) and your 1933A/16/9. Consider it most desirable allied and neutral merchant vessels trading in British interests should be able to carry out identification procedure. Inability to identify friendly shipping may hazard H.M. Ships.
(A.C.N.B., 1918Z/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 19.12.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

RUCKINGE.
H.M.S.STANLEY.

RUCKINGE torpedoed at 0515A. 35 survivors 6 missing.
(STORK, 1140A/19, to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C.W.A., Admty.)
RUCKINGE sinking slowly and on fire. No sign of crew, only empty life boats. Rejoining convoy. 3 survivors ex STANLEY and 13 Germans ex U-boat on board.
(SAMPHIRE, 1330A/19, to F.O.C.N.A. (R) STORK.)
STANLEY was sunk by U/B while escorting H.G.76 at 0450/19. STORK sank the U-boat. (D.O.R. 19/12.) No signal in W.D., but see 20/12.

Submarines Reported.

0123A. At 0123A/19 U-Boat made sight report, probably of convoy H.G.76.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0241A/19 to Ships Escorting Convoy H.G.76.)

0130.G.M.T. On 4796 Kc/s at 0130 G.M.T. Convoy was probably reported by German U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 0311A/19 to Escorts of H.G.76.)

2357B/18. My 2357B/18 HOTSPUR and HASTY leave harbour 0330 to hunt.
(Capt. S.I, 0327B/19, to PERSEUS, PORPOISE.)

0103. Small U-boats sighted in position 297° Raseltin 37 at 0103.
(R.A.Alexandria 0400B/19 to Greek Destroyer ASPIS, H.M.S. PRIMULA.)

1120Z.
1615Z. Hudson aircraft on passage Gibraltar Bathurst reports sighting U-Boats in 24° 31' N., 15° 31' W., at 1120Z/18 14° 05' N., 17° W., at 1615Z/18.
(C. in C.S.A., 1149Z/19, to Admty.)

1340A. 1 S/M bearing 183° distance 22 miles course unknown. My position 080°, 39° N., 18° W.,6
(STORK, 1340A/19, to Liverpool C.C.O., Gibraltar C.C.O.(R) Admty.)

Estimated approximate positions of U-boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1403A/19, 1404A/19.)

/R.D.F.bearings...

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. Contd.

R.D.F. bearings from 1421/18 to 0133/19 indicate at least one sub. in area 42° to 46° N., and 33° to 38°W.
(Opnav, 1441/19, to Admty.)

0942N. Aircraft obtained possible A.S.V. contact in 062° 52' N., 020° 21' W., at 0942N/19.
(A.C.I.C., 1548N/19 to Ships north of 60° N., between 10° and 30° W., Admty., C. in C.W.A., A.C.O.S., S.O.N.T., C. in C. Home Fleet.)

Submarines Attacked.

By JERVIS 18/12, off Alexandria. C.S.15. Your 2317. Small U-boat sighted on the surface in 297° Ras-El-Tin 37. First pattern dropped by eye very close as U-boat dived. Consider possibly sunk or seriously damaged.
(Capt. D.14, 0103/19, to C. in C. Med., (R) C.S.15.) Attack was by JERVIS. (D.O.R.20/12.) 909. U-boat sighted on the surface in position 031° 27' North 029° 20' East at 2300 18th by C.S.15 Force returning to Alexandria. JERVIS reports pattern dropped by (corrupt group) very close to U-boat 315. U-boat considered possibly sunk or seriously damaged.

By KINGSTON CYANITE. 18/12. KINGSTON CYANITE attacked contact at 2355/18 evidently in 031° 18' N., 029° 26' E. U-boat contacted in centre of pattern at angle 35° and sank again immediately. No further contact obtained. Consider U-boat sunk or seriously damaged.
(C. in C. Med., 1833/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

It is reported in the press that Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, has been appointed commander of the combined U.S. Fleets.

Home Commands.

E.boats were active from 2100/19 to 0430/20, between Cromer and Yarmouth, possibly engaged in minelaying. Our M.Ls and M.G.Bs made contact and some engagements ensued in which damage to the enemy is claimed and our M.Ls sustained slight damage but no casualties.

Reports graded B.2 suggest that a raider recently passed down Channel. The ship may have already left a Biscay port for a raiding cruise.

PRINZ EUGEN and the two battle cruisers were all seen in dock at Brest by P.R.U. R/C at 1200A today. GUEYDON was not seen. The S/M patrol in the Bay of Biscay is to disperse tomorrow.

Harwich and Yarmouth were closed about 0830 today on account of fog. Yarmouth was reopened at 1031A but was closed again from 1301A to 1441A.

Enemy Air Operations

ECHO and S.S. DEKABRIST in P.Q.3 were attacked at 1224C in 69° 27' N. 34° 30' E. Two U.X.Bs were dropped in DEKABRIST. There was no other damage.

BRITOMART called for help in 62° 20' N. 0° 0' W. at 1253 today and convoy W.P.83 in 50° 34' N. 5° 11' W. at 1839. No damage is reported.

MOST SE[illegible]

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

WELSHMAN arrived at Milford Haven this afternoon for minelaying operations off Brest.

Enemy aircraft were intensely active this evening over the Thames Estuary. Minelaying is suspected. Most of the patrols were fogbound in Sheerness, but visibility at the time of the raid had increased to about 10 cables.

Mediterranean.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour last night. Tobruk was heavily attacked by enemy aircraft last night but no damage is reported.

Far East.

There are the following forces in the Far East area as defined in A.B.C.1 :-
(1) British based on Singapore
2 D class cruisers
7 destroyers.
(2) U.S. operating in the area Balikpapan, Surabaya, Darwin
2 cruisers
8 destroyers.
(3) Dutch operating in Java Sea
3 cruisers
6 destroyers.
(4) 7 Dutch S/Ms operating from Singapore in Gulf of Siam, and about 30 U.S. S/Ms operating from Manila in China Sea.

The U.S. Naval Intelligence reports the following dispositions of the Japanese aircraft carriers :-
South China & Gulf of Siam - AKAGI and KAGA with 60 A/C each.
Luzon, Formosa - 2 A/C carriers with approx: 70 A/C and 5 converted seaplane tenders with a total of 60 A/C.

/Saipan ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Far East - contd.

Saipan - Palau. SORYU and HIRYU with 42 A/C each. Also possibly RYUJO with 30 A/C.
Hawaii - Mandates area. 4 - 6 A/C carriers with a total of approx. 124 - 180 A/C.
The following bases are being used by Japanese fighters:- Basco (Batan Is.) Vigan, Aparri, Legaspi.

China.

Hong Kong. The fortress is still holding out in a restricted area. It was reported at 0245Z today that M.T.Bs attacked craft crossing from Kowloon Bay and sank 4 enemy landing craft with troops. M.T.B.12 and 26 were sunk and 07 damaged (cf.19/12). The situation is very confused. An A.P. vessel, Oiler EBONOL, B.D.V. BARLIGHT and H.M.S. TERN who were unable to steam were scuttled. CICALA, ROBIN, REDSTART, M.T.Bs 09, 10,11, 27 are in service. The force blockading Hong Kong is reported to consist of 2 cruisers, 2 destroyers and 2 T.Bs.

Malaya. H.M.S. LIPIS arrived today at Singapore with detachments and S.S. Police from the Miri area.

Timor. Full military control of Portuguese Timor is deferred pending clarification of the Portuguese attitude.

America and West Indies.

Now that the U.S. have put W.P.L.46 into force the Pacific area as defined in A.B.C.1 is a U.S. responsibility and the only British unit in the area other than Canadian vessels is a D. class cruiser co-operating with the U.S. S.W. Pacific Forces in the Galapagos area.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of V.A.2.

Flag of F.O. 2nd I.C. Home Fleet has been transferred temporarily to DUNLUCE CASTLE. Office of F.O. 2nd I.C. Home Fleet is in RENOWN to which all correspondence and signals are to be sent.
(C. in C. H.F. 1301A/20.)

Proposed U.S. Depot Ship at Hvalfiord.

Your 1049A/18. Consider that U.S. Depot ship could deal with most repairs satisfactorily. Following points are however against employment of U.S. Depot Ship.
(A.C.I.C. 1638N/20 to Adty.)

Co-operation with Russia.

Russian S/Ms for U.K.

Admiral Miles 1859D/18. If these two S/Ms are sent I would prefer to base them at Gibraltar for operations in Western Mediterranean. If Russians will not agree to this I would base them at Dundee.
(F.O.S. 1059A/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

EDINBURGH, ECHO, ESCAPADE with MIRLO and DEKABRIST arrived Murmansk.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 0530C/20.)

WESTCOTT. My P.C.S. 049° 34' N. 015° 53' W. 214°, 14½ knots. (WESTCOTT 0700Z/20.)

MATABELE. My position 045° 22' N. 020° 40' W.
(MATABELE 0800Z/20.)

MANXMAN. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1011A/20.)

JAVELIN. Your 1734/14th. Subject to satisfactory trials throughout and deperming, ship should be ready for service 17/1.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1201/20 to Admty.)

RODNEY
RENOWN
SHEFFIELD.

My 1655A/19. Amend time of R/V to read 1400A/21.
(C. in C. H.F. 1150A/20 to RODNEY, RENOWN.)
Hvalfjord departure RODNEY, WALKER, VERITY, WITHERINGTON at 1100.
(A.C.I.C. 1225N/20.)
Scapa departures for Hvalfjord 1517 RENOWN. MONTROSE (F.L) WORCESTER and FORESTER in company. Arrival 1337 SHEFFIELD.
(A.C.O.S. 1521A/20.)

/My 1521A/20. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements.

RODNEY RENOWN SHEFFIELD contd.	My 1521A/20. E.T.A. RENOWN at Hvalfjord 1000Z/22. (A.C.O.S. 2222A/20.)
HAZARD.	HAZARD arrived Murmansk. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 1615C/20.)
LANCASTER NEWARK.	Sailed LANCASTER, NEWARK to comply with C. in C. W.A. 1548A/19. (R.A.M. 1700A/20 to FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS.)
TURBULENT TEMPEST.	F.O.S. 1312A/20/11. TURBULENT and TEMPEST are to be sailed about 3/1 for Gibraltar where they should carry out their O.N.E. working up patrol before joining 1st Flotilla. (F.O.S. 1308A/20.)
0.9.	Return to Rothesay. 0.9 pass to ANGLE. (F.O.S. 1904A/20 to 0.9.)
P.39 P.36.	A. P.39 proceed submerged by day through position 09 thence through 43° N. 11° 54' W. B. P.36 proceed submerged by day through position 10 thence through 43° N. 11° 13' W. C. Both S/Ms proceed onwards to Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C.N.A. (F.O.S. 2144A/20.)
Z.5.	At 2100A/21, intend to sail Z.5 from Rothesay to arrive Falmouth 1300A/23. F.O.i/c Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. S. of A. 12 knots. (Capt. S.7. 2214A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Operations.

E-Boats chased off Cromer.	3 Stragglers from F.S.76 found in Q Z S 311 and turned back to Humber via Q Z S 308. E-boats were encountered and driven off while escorting them to East Dudgeon. (QUORN 0333A/20.) E-boat activity night 19/20 from 2100 to 0430 between Cromer and Yarmouth. Probably working in two groups possibly minelaying. One group of 3 boats sighted by QUORN on "B" Patrol and chased from near Cromer to Haddock Bank where touch was lost. The other group of two boats was intercepted in 52° 55' N. 02° 42' E. by M.Ls 187 and 147 on patrol but contact was lost after about 20 minutes. Convoy not attacked. (C. in C. Nore 0818A/20.)

/My 0818A/20 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

E-Boats chased off Cromer - contd.

My 0818A/20. Following is preliminary report of anti-E-Boat activity night 19-20 December.
2. QUORN intercepted 3 E-Boats near 8C.Buoy at 0207/20 pursuing them northwards to 57G.Buoy then eastwards until contact was lost near the Haddock Bank at 0311/20. No further details available.
3. At 0305/20 M.Ls 187 and 147 on patrol between Q Z X 39 and the mine barrier sighted 2 E-Boats on an E'ly course in 52° 52' N. 2° 43' E. and engaged with all guns at 1 cable range. Running fight developed in North Easterly direction M.Ls losing contact at 0330/20. Contact was again made at 0357 and with the enemy steering S.W. a circling action developed for 13 minutes, the enemy finally disappearing East. M.Ls pursued and made contact for third time at 0423 with E-Boats apparently stopped. M.Ls overshot them and failed to remake contact after circling to re-engage. Hits were observed in all three actions, M.Ls sustaining slight damage and no casualties.
5. M.G.Bs. 63, 65 and 67 were sailed from Harwich on reports of suspected E-Boat activity to patrol N.W. of Brown Ridge. No 63 was left at Aldeburgh Buoy with defective shaft, Nos.65 and 67 while proceeding to their patrol made contact with 2 large and 1 small E-Boats on S.W. course in 52° 45' N. 3° E. A general action developed in a S.E'ly direction for 90 minutes with contact being lost and regained. Two depth charges were dropped in a good position by M.G.B.65. Both M.G.Bs W/T put out of action by weather but no other damage reported. They consider enemy was damaged.
(C. in C. Nore 1852A/20.)

Operation Q.N.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.N. tonight.
(C. in C. Nore 0936A/20 to BEEHIVE.)
Orders for operation Q.N. para 4B. In order to counter possible lack of air R/C, M.G.Bs are to pass through positions HLYX 3028 and VCYX 0432 en route for their patrol position.
(C. in C. Nore 1040A/20 to BEEHIVE.)
My 0936A. Q.N. postponed 24 hours on account of weather.
(C. in C. Nore 1750A/20 to F.O. Yarmouth.)

Patrol.

Departure M.G.Bs 88 and 91 on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1718A/20.)

/Signal ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

Signal Exercise.

It is proposed to hold a Force 110 signal exercise from 14/1 until 17/1 inclusive using KARANJA, KEREN, and M/V WINCHESTER CASTLE. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to approve of the ships anchoring in the Firth of Clyde in an area 150° Toward Point 3 miles during daylight hours of 16/1.
(C.Q.2 0950/20.)

Patrols A and B.

WALPOLE and MENDIP are to carry out patrols A and B respectively tonight. Patrol A is to be between H.3 and East Dudgeon Buoys. Patrol B is to be between East Dudgeon and 57 D Buoys in Admiralty message Q Z S 308 only. Trawlers will be stationed in Q Z S 277 from 59 A Buoy to Sheringham inclusive and are to be instructed to remain close to Channel Buoy when they are in swept channel. Patrols A and B are to commence 2100.
(C. in C. Nore 1034A/20.)
My 1034A. MENDIP is fog bound. WALPOLE is to carry out patrols A and B.
(C. in C. Nore 1557A/20.)
WALPOLE at 1625 to anchor at Humber L/F, thence to patrol A in accordance with C. in C. Nore's 1034A/20.
(F.O. Humber 1638A/20.)

M.G.B. Patrol.

M.G.Bs 316, 314, 312, are to leave the eastern searched channel at 1800/20 to carry out patrol between Cap. D'Antifer and Ouistreham, returning to searched channel at daybreak 21/12. Policy - shoot at sight. Communication - Nyko only, land other books.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1107A/20.)

S/M Patrol off Cherbourg.

S.5's 2104/19. H.32 sailed 1047 for exercises and patrol.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 1147/20.)
H.32 leaves Portsmouth p.m./20 to patrol in 49° 53' N. 01° 14' W.
(F.O.S. 1643A/20 to Admty.)
H.32 left Portsmouth from end of Q Z S 169 at 1500/20 direct to patrol vicinity of 049° 53' N. 001° 14' W. (II) P.38 left Plymouth from end of Q Z S 278 through 180° Start Point 15 miles to patrol vicinity of 049° 53' N. 001° 47' W.
(Capt. S.5 1750A/20.)
Sailed 1715 P.38 for patrol escorted by ELLESMERE. Escort parts company at end Q Z S 278 returning Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1752/20.)
After dark 21st S/Ms are to be ordered to proceed as indicated. P.38 return to Portsmouth. H.32 proceed to Falmouth.
(F.O.S. 2142A/20.)

/SEAWOLF ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - contd.

SEAWOLF Patrol.

SEAWOLF arrived. Westbound convoy 4 ships escorted by one destroyer attacked 70° 49' N. 30° E. 1945C/9 in heavy gale. No hits. No other ships sighted. Bad conditions experienced. Several cracks discovered in side of Wrapper plates of main engine frames in way of bolt plates. Admty. pass to R.A.(S).
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1442C/20.)

East Coast Patrols.

Brightlingsea Auxiliary patrols remaining in harbour fogbound.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1540A/20.)

Biscay S/M Patrol.

A. Anticipate following numbers of S/Ms will be occupying patrol positions in Bay of Biscay on the dates indicated. 21st December 8, 22nd December 11, 23rd December 12, 24th December 12, 25th December 11, 26th December 9, 27th December 8, 28th December 7, 29th December Nil.
B. P.38 and H.32 will be on patrol off Cherbourg from 21st until 29/12.
(F.O.S. 1807A/20.)
A. Submarines in Biscay area remain in vicinity of positions reached at 0800A/21 except P.36 and P.39 for whom orders follow.
B. After dark 21st following S/Ms proceed to Falmouth by outward routes as far as lat. 49° N. thence to R/V as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth on the dates indicated. O.21, O.10 December 23rd. H.51, H.50, H.28, H.33, OTWAY, JUNON, December 24th.
C. URSULA leave patrol at 2359/21 and proceed through position 14 thence by route J to lat. 49° N., thence to Portsmouth as ordered by S.S.
(F.O.S. 2139A/20.)
Object for S/Ms while on return passage from Bay of Biscay and Channel Area is in accordance with F.S.C. and F.S.F. respectively. S/Ms are not to be attacked unless hostile identity is certain.
(F.O.S. 2141A/20 to S/Ms Area A.)

Denmark Straits Patrol.

My 1901Z/19. Cancel para D (i) and substitute "some form of W/T transmission which ships can D/F be established at Goltr light".
(C.S.1 2015Z/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escort for RENOWN and RODNEY.

My 1655A/19 and my 1150A/20. RENOWN approaching R/V on course 298°, S. of A. 17½ knots. RODNEY's estimated position at 0930A/22 340° Cape Wrath 10 miles, course 090°, 16 knots. Request A/S air escort may be provided for both ships as far as practicable.
(C. in C. H.F. 1427A/20.)
Expect A/S air escort of one Catalina from dawn/21.
(C. in C. W.A. 2322A/20 to RENOWN.)

Escort for FORMIDABLE ILLUSTRIOUS.

Request fighter protection for FORMIDABLE, ILLUSTRIOUS & 4 destroyers as follows. Details.
(C. in C. W.A. 1750A/20.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LUCELLUM (Damaged 19/12.)

Your 2134A/19. Sailed PAUL RYKENS escorting Salvage Tug RANGER to assist LUCELLUM.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 0301A/20 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

A/C off Lisbon on 18/12.

One F.W. sighted at 1620A/18 in 39° 25' N. 14° 40' W. Circled ship from horizon and disappeared to North East.
(MANXMAN 0947/20.)

BRITOMART.

Help 62° 20' N. 6° W.
(BRITOMART 1253/20.)

Unknown Ship.

Intercepted 1347 G.M.T. from unknown station automatic AAAA heard at 1345/20. Bearing 327°, unreliable.
(Burnham Radio 1347/20.)

Convoy W.P.83.

Help "Watch", 2 aircraft, 50° 34' N. 5° 11' W. course 055°, speed 8 knots.
(BROCKLESBY 1839/20.)

ECHO and DEKABRIST. attacked

P.Q.6 S.S. DEKABRIST attacked by 2 JU.88s about 30 miles North East Kola Inlet entrance at 1220C/20 December. 6 bombs dropped and 2 hits both unexploded, 1 on bridge, 1 through ship's side in number 4 hold causing partial flooding. No casualties in DEKABRIST. ECHO lost 2 men overboard during bombing attack.
(C.S.18 1932C/20.)
2 Junkers 88 attacked ECHO and S.S. DEKABRIST position 069° 27' N. 034° 30' E. at 1224C/20 dropping two U.X.Bs in DEKABRIST. No other damage. Soviet fighter aircraft were in the vicinity.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 2225C/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation Q.O.

If flying conditions permit intend sailing 13th and 9th Flotilla at 0800 and 0815/20, passing through position G arriving vicinity position A about 1120. 13th M/S.F will sweep C.1 and C.2 lines between 051° 45' N. and 052° N, 9th M/S.F will sweep B.S.26 only. Will return in company through position G arriving Cork about 1930.
(S.O. 9 M/S.F 0022A/20.)
50% of sweeping force still detained in harbour by fog. Visibility to seaward 1 mile. Propose cancelling Q.O. for today.
(S.O. 9 M/S Flotilla 1007A/20.)
Your 1552A/16 November. Subject to a satisfactor percentage mines being found to remain in B.S.26, suggest that southern end B.S.28 be located but that this latter line should not be swept up.
(C. in C. Nore 1244A/20 to Admty.)
Both flotillas fog bound. (M) 9 in harbour less SIDMOUTH at Platters. (M) 13 less FELIXSTOWE anchored at Cork. FELIXSTOWE in harbour. Propose sweeping as in my 0022A/20. (M) 9 sailing from Cork at 0530/21 if ships in harbour have joined me, but not later than 0930. Passage to and from position A via position G at 13½ knots. Request ROMNEY may be kept informed of prospects of fighter protection and if favourable he may sail with remaining ships to join me by 0530. Programme for (M) 13 as in S.O.(M)13's 1720A/20. If ships in harbour cannot sail request instructions whether M (13) can proceed independently.
(S.O. 9 M/S.F. 1935A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Operation H.J.

My 1231/12. 1. Request you repeat Operation H.J. on night of 22nd/23rd December with WELSHMAN and MANXMAN laying in Area B. 2. On completion MANXMAN to proceed to Clyde for docking. WELSHMAN to proceed to Milford Haven.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1231/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation 26.C.

Intend to carry out with SOUTHERN PRINCE and WELLS on 23/12. Details.
(R.A.M. 1326/20.) See Lion Copy.

WELSHMAN.

My 1101A/19. Arrived WELSHMAN.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1409A/20.)

N.L.50.

Intend to carry out operation N.L.50 tonight. In vicinity of Dunkirk No.7 W. Buoy.
(V.A. Dover 1502A/20.)

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

3 Warships in Kattegat on 15/12.

A report grade B 3 indicates that 3 warships believed to be cruisers passed through the Kattegat Sound northbound p.m.15th.
(F.O.S. 0057A/20 to S/Ms on Patrol.)

Off Lorient.

From D.120. Have obtained A.S.V. contact in position 46° 50' N. 7° 3' W. Probably a surface vessel.
(D.120 0515/20 to H.Q. 15 Group.)
Have lost touch with enemy.
(D/120 0625/20 to H.Q. 15 Group.)

Brest.

Brest R/C at 1200/20. PRINZ EUGEN has returned to her former dry dock since 18/12. Light camouflage erected at bows and stern. Impossible determine state of dock. GUEYDON not seen in port or Rade, but Chateaulin River not photed. SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU usual dry docks with no material change camouflage. The two M Class M/S departed, none now present. Two, possibly three, S/Ms seen Port Militaire compared three on 18/12.
(P.R.U. St. Eval 1650/20) (D.D.I.C. 1825A/20.)

Raider.

B.2 reports suggest that a Raider recently passed down Channel. This ship may already have left a Biscay port for a raiding cruise.
(D.D.I.C. 1810A/20.)

Navigational.

Yarmouth.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0825A/20.)
Port is now open.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1031A/20.)
Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1301A/20.)
Cancel my 1301A/20.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1441A/20.)

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0849A/20.)

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy O.N.46 EMPIRE CHIEF Distress.

EMPIRE CHIEF position 59° 08' N. 27° 12' W. Helpless, steering engine and gear completely smashed. Send help immediately. Master.
(Valentia Radio 0147/20 to Adm. Devonport.)
EMPIRE CHIEF. Position. Are you in touch.
(D.C. 0640A/20 to TRAIL.)

/A.M.0640A/20 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects

Convoy O.N.46
EMPIRE CHIEF
Distress -
contd.

A.M. 0640A/20. Is rescue tug available.
(D.C. 0641A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you will sail rescue tug to assist EMPIRE CHIEF.
(D.T.D. 0822A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
Rescue tug will be sent as soon as possible.
(D.T.D. 0824A/20 to Opnav.)
EMPIRE CHIEF reported broken down in 59° 08' N. 27° 12'W. at 0147A/20. SNOWDROP will escort you to her assistance. Sail to R/V with SNOWDROP in 000° Inistrahull 10 miles at 0900A/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1103A/20 to TENACITY.)

EMPIRE MARLOW.

TRAIL's 1630Z/19. Is tug being sent.
(D.C. 0212A/20 to A.C.I.C.)
Your 0212A/20. Repairs to FREEBOOTER will not be completed before p.m. 21st at earliest.
No other tug available.
(A.C.I.C. 0432N/20 to Admty.)
Your 1101A/20. Further inspection of FREEBOOTER's boilers show that she is unfit for ocean towing work. Earliest possible date she can proceed is a.m. 22. Request tug be sent from U.K.
(A.C.I.C. 1255N/20 to Admty.)
Your 0432N/20. The fact that FREEBOOTER was out of action should have been reported in accordance with C.A.F.O. 1672/41 para 1.
(D.T.D. 1631A/20 to A.C.I.C.)
MARAUDER is to be sailed with despatch to assist EMPIRE MARLOW who has lost her propeller in 58° 58' N. 26° W. at 0851 today. TRAIL standing by. TENACITY and SNOWDROP are proceeding to EMPIRE CHIEF broken down in position 59° 08' N. 27° 12' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1925A/20 to N.O.I.C.Stornoway.)
MARAUDER sailed to comply with your 1925A/20.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 2154A/20.)
Your 1631A/20. This is regretted but FREEBOOTER's defects were cumulative and it was not originally expected she would be out of action more than a few hours.
(A.C.I.C. 2353N/20 to Admty.)

BOURGEOISE III Following received by Cullercoats Radio, begins. From BOURGEOISE III. Am fighting fire. Ends.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0849/20.)

OBERON. Arrived CUTTY SARK and OBERON.
(Capt. S.7. 0916A/20.)

/SPEEDY ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

SPEEDY
BRAMBLE
LEDA.
SEAGULL.

My 1640C/18th not to all addressees. Damage to SPEEDY add part of fore top mast shot away. SPEEDY has following major defects. LEDA reports serious increase boiler tube trouble and cannot guarantee having both boilers available any length of time. SEAGULL has similar trouble. Intend LEDA to return to U.K. with SEAGULL and SPEEDY with Q.P.4. All ships require docking and LEDA and SEAGULL to be fitted with greater down comers and baffles.
(S.O. 1st M/S F. 09260/20.)

H.43.

Intend to sail H.43 at 1200/20 escorted by CHILTERN to end of Q Z S 180 thence independently in accordance with F.O.S 1114A/19.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 0934/20.)
My 0934/20. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1237/20.)
H.43 routed through 049° N. 7° 29' W, thence by route C. to position 03, leaving Falmouth at 1200A/20 escorted to vicinity of Wolf Rock thence independently diving by day.
(Capt. S.7. 1129A/20.)
Return to Falmouth. R/V A.M./21 as ordered by F.O.I.C. Falmouth who is requested to order the necessary T.B.R. in vicinity of R/V.
(F.O.S. 1902A/20 to H.43.)
Intend to sail M/S trawler FLUELLEN at 0500/21 to R/V with H.43 at E.buoy 180° Lizard Head 3 miles at daylight 21st.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 2238/20.)

LA MELPOMENE.

Admiralty's 1933/19. Intend to sail LA MELPOMENE at 1200 today or as soon after as fog lifts speed 12 knots for Sheerness for onward passage to Poplar.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0946A/20.)
My 0946/20. Postponed owing to fog. Intend to sail LA MELPOMENE 0900 tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1230A/20.)

RODNEY.

Admiralty's 2005A/9 and C. in C. H.F. 2042A/18. RODNEY will not now be taken in hand before early February 1942. 2. RODNEY can be received in the basin at Cammell Laird's Liverpool between 2nd and 4th February and 14th and 17th February.
(Controller 1141A/20.)

ALIX
destroyed.

(Clyde river patrol motor boat) ALIX destroyed by fire 0715/20. Probable total loss. No loss of life, one man suffering from effect of fumes.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1156/20.)

/REGENT ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - contd.

REGENT. My P.C.S. are 163° Brighton East Pier 3.4, 237°, 11. Arriving E A 5 Buoy 1410.
(REGENT 1210A/20.)

LETTLE ? Wreck of a tug has been located off outer edge of Abertay sound in approaches to Dundee in a position approx. 23 cables 163° from Buddon High Light. Vessel appears to correspond with description of missing tug LETTLE. Ship is upright and in 10 ft at LWOS and may be salvageable Request salvage Authorities Leith or Aberdeen be directed to examine.
(N.O.I.C. Dundee 1739/20.)

H.34. My 1114A/19. Defer sailing of H.34 until further notice.
(F.O.S. 1902A/20 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

RONALDSAY (A/S - M/S Trawler.) S.O. 4th M/S F. reports C.O. of RONALDSAY medically unfit to continue in command as result of recent gales. RONALDSAY's anchor cables and winch also unserviceable. As ship is due for boiler cleaning I suggest she proceeds south forthwith. Request repair port be allocated.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 2215A/20.)

Shipping and Convoys.

F.C.16. F.C.16 19 hours late. New M.O.M.P. follows.
(C. in C. W.A. 0950A/20 to N.O.I.C. Iceland.)

F.S.75 Am in company rear of F.S.75 anchored near B.2 buoy. Thick fog.
(WINCHESTER 1116/20.)

F.N.83. F.N.83 anchored in thick fog near B.2 buoy.
(WOLSEY 1130A/20.)
Visibility improving. Should F.N.83 proceed tonight.
(WOLSEY 1631A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

U.R.3. Route for U.R.3 sailing from Loch Ewe 23/12.
(C. in C. W.A. 1210A/20.)

/Q.P.4 ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - contd.

Q.P.4. Your 1045C/20. LENIN instantly available for perhaps the last opportunity of breaking DANY BRYN (corrupt group) METEOR, CAPE CORSO, CAPE RACE, and ST. CLEAR out of their precarious position at Bakaritsa. Under advice from Papanyn and with Maclay's full concurrence I have accordingly delayed sailing of Q.P.4 to cross Dvina (corrupt group) 2200C/23 when convoy will consist of 15 ships.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1225C/20 to Adty.)
Your 1633A/20. Following is repetition my 1045C/20 ends. To S.B.N.O. North Russia, LEDA, repeated C.S.18, M.S.1, Admiralty. LENIN now breaking out Q.P.4. Fair prospect (?closing) Dvina Bar high water 1900C today.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 2359C/20 to Admty.)

BOADICEA. In good radio telephony touch with escort but unable to find convoy low visibility. My P.C.S. 059° 17' N. 015° 43' W., 270°, 7 knots.
(BOADICEA 1330A/20.)

P.Q.6. STALIN has encountered very thick ice and is steaming towards P.Q.6 still 50 miles away at Intzi making good (corrupt group) slow speed. She will require to bunker from one of the ships before leading them to Molotovsk. This largely influenced my decision deferring sailing of Q.P. as well as reason given my 1225C/20.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 1815C/20 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Dispositions

Your 1633/10.
A. Now that U.S. have put W.P.L.46 into force Pacific area as defined in A.B.C.1 is a U.S. responsibility and only British Unit in this area other than Canadian vessels is a "D" Class cruiser co-operating with U.S. S.W. Pacific Force in Galapagos area. Disposition of U.S. forces in Pacific area not known here and this information best obtained by you direct or through B.A.D. Washington.
B. In S.W. Pacific west of U.S. strategic area are majority of Australian and New Zealand Navies.
C. In Far East area as defined in A.B.C.1. are following Forces:-
(1) British based on Singapore.
2 "D" Class cruisers.
7 Destroyers.
(2) U.S. operating in area Balikpapon, Surabaya, Darwin:-
2 Cruisers.
8 Destroyers.
(3) Dutch operating in Java Sea:-
3 Cruisers and
6 Destroyers.
(4) 7 Dutch submarines operating from Singapore in Gulf of Siam and about 30 U.S. submarines operating from Manila in China Sea.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1636A/20 to C.N.S. Ottawa) P.D. 0664/41.

North Atlantic.

Movements.

Departure VIDETTE 0300 WISHART 0614 to R/V with S.S. BATORY. (F.O.C.N.A. 0642A/20).

0.24.
CANADA.

Shift normal W/T watch to Gibraltar Broadcast at 2200A/21. (2) French Hospital Ship CANADA off Cape Gata 22nd making passage Straits of Gibraltar 23rd. (F.O.C.N.A. 0908 A/20 to 0.24).

ZULU
WHITEHALL.

Intend ZULU for U patrol and WHITEHALL for Western Approaches tonight.
(Capt. (D) 19 1050A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

HERMIONE
(carrying out exercises with ARGUS).

Have developed severe condenseritis in forward unit. Returning to harbour now to rectify. E.T.A.Gate 1140.
(HERMIONE 1050A/20 to S.O. Force H).
My 1050/20 density clearing. Can remain at sea. Am joining ARGUS for F.D.X.
(HERMIONE 1115/20).

ARGUS A/C

1 Aircraft crashed astern.
(WHITEHALL 1129/20).

/FARADAY.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

FARADAY — My 1828A/16. Sailing of FARADAY delayed until stronger escort is available.
(V.A.C.N.A 1150A/19 to C.in C. S.A.).
Your 1248A/19. Trawler not now available until 23/12 earliest. (F.O.C.N.A. 1901A/20 to Admty. (R) C.in C. S.A.).

Destroyers at Gibraltar. — (1) Advantage has been taken of group 2 destroyers to exercise MALAYA and ARGUS for one day each.
(2) After departure of group 2 escort commitments of ATHENE BATORY and H.G.77 will reduce number of destroyers available for Force H and patrol to 5 or 6 depending on numbers boiler cleaning or defective.
(3) With present U/B dispositions this precludes possibility of carrying out further exercises until about 7/1.
(4) Escort as in para. 2 is all that can be kept available should Force H have to proceed in an emergency.
(S.O. Force H. 1257A/20 to 1603A/20 to Admty.).

Patrols 2 sweeps. — Group 4 passing through 000° Spartel 5 at 2000A in this position detach 1 corvette to patrol line Spartel - Cape Trafalgar. Report name of corvette detailed.
Remainder of Group 4 passing through 180° Europa Point 7 thence carry out A/S sweep in area 036° 30' N. 035° 30' N. 004° 00' W. 004° 25' W.
By night sweep in 2 divisions one North of 036° 05' N. the other South of 036° 00' N.
By day sweep as one group.
WHITEHALL and M.L. No. 174 will be on U patrol.
Report E.T. of passing position in para. 2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1327A/20 to BLACK SWAN Rep. S.O. Group 4, HERMIONE, WHITEHALL).

ROCKROSE JASMINE. — ROCKROSE JASMINE in the vicinity of 26.28 23.20 through 25.00 23.00 thence 159° 9. Situation 2001A/20. (F.O.C.N.A. 1424A/20 to A.I.G.65).

CAMPOMANES. — Your 1555A/20th ship was CAMPOMANES boarded 0930 southward Seville Corvette from Vigo. (?Southward) (?since) allowed to proceed. (IMPERIALIST 1715A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

French Movements. — Gibraltar 0900 French Light cruiser FANTASQUE French ship CAP BLANC full deck cargo military transport. 1033 French survey ship ESTAFETTE, French CAPITAINE LUIGI full deck cargo of motor transport MENHIR BRAZ laden, VILLE D'ORAN light trawler CAPITAINE ARMAND westbound. (S.O.I. Gibraltar 1725A/20 to Admty. etc.).

/F.W.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -Contd.

F.W. activity. Three F.W. aircraft active to W.S.W. of Bordeaux one probably sighted and reported convoy H.G.76 before noon. (D.D.I.C. 1739A/20 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ATHENE Admty. 1635A/19. Intend sailing ATHENE escorted by EXMOOR, CROOME at 1800A/23 routed through (a) 35.50 N. 06.30 W. (b) 32.45 10.10 (c) 28.00 13.30 (d) 23.20 17.40 (e) 14.00 19.00. S.of A. 15 knots.
(2) from position (e) destroyers will proceed Bathurst for fuel subsequently returning to Gibraltar. (3) C.in C. S.A. is requested to make onward escort and routeing instructions, observing ATHENE has insufficient endurance to reach Takoradi without fuelling en route. (F.O.C.N.A. 1740A/20 to Admty. C.in C. S.A.).

Situation Report No.1. My 1416A/20th. Add new para 11. HERMIONE passes Gibraltar westbound through Straits at 0001A/21. (F.O.C.N.A. 1754A/20 to N.A. Station).

O.24. My 1336A/19. Your 1506 restrictions have been instituted assuming that you will dive between 038° 10' 002° 00' E. and 038° 00' 001° 20' E. on 21st also 037° 20' 000° 20' W. and 037° 05' 000° 50' W. on 22nd. (F.O.C.N.A. 1936A/20 to O.24). P.C. and S. 1900A/20th. 038° 18' N. 002° 48' E. 258° 8 several ships sighted off Oran none of which at close inspection answered description. Sighted one U/B North of us 11th; long range attack frustrated by 090° zigzag and subsequent diving. Hydrophonic effect of possible other U/B 13th same position not sighted. No other shipping in vicinity. Slight air activity. Fired 3 torpedoes. (O.24 2118A/20).

Lisbon shipping for evacuation. Your 1556/19. This question must be handled by Ambassador and F.O. are telegraphing to that effect. In the meantime, you are to comply with my 1936/18. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2041A/20 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

HERMIONE Departure.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2130A/20).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.12 Z.
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Your 1220/19. Probable date p.m./23/12 on completion of boiler cleaning ROYAL SOVEREIGN. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0144Z/20 to C.in C. E.I.).

Convoys
W.S.12 Z.A.
12 Z B.
12 Z.M.

Your 2234/19 and my 0116/20. Following is final composition of convoys.
(2) All above will be ready to leave Durban p.m./24. Speed 14 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1049Z/20 to C.in C. E.I.).

MILFORD
BRIDGEWATER
W.S.15.

A.M. 1723A/24/11.
MILFORD after docking Durban is having short refit at Simonstown but will be available to meet W.S.14 if situation requires.
(2) Intend sailing BRIDGEWATER with W.S.15 and for short refit at Simonstown if situation permits.
(3) If no submarine activity in Cape area intend both these ships return Freetown after refit.
(C.in C. S.A. 1201Z/20 to Admty.).
My 1201/20. If no Admty. objection intend MILFORD should visit Loanda for 24 hours on passage to Freetown, as I consider contact with Portuguese authorities Angola would do good.
Will obtain permission direct through C.G. Loanda.
2. Intend MILFORD to pay short visit to Matadi after Loanda. (C.in C. S.A. 1231Z/20 to Admty.).

ROCKROSE
JASMINE.

Your 1601A/2 request route and approx. position of ROCKROSE JASMINE.
(C.in C. S.A. 1301Z/20 to C.in C. W.A.).

Routes of
U.S. Ships.

Request I may be informed whether routes of U.S.A. ships in south Atlantic are being passed to U.S.A. Naval Department by Admiralty or whether they should be repeated to Chatfold by N.C.S.O's.
(C.in C. S.A. 1330Z/20 to Admty.).

ILEX.

B.A.R.M. (1443R/19) and Admty's 1649/3/11.
Request report completion date of ILEX when ready she is to be sailed for Freetown via Pointe Noire for fuel. (C.in C. S.A. 1401Z/20 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

S.S. STEEL
SCIENTIST

Overdue shipping. My 1009/16. STEEL SCIENTIST arrived Durban a.m./20.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1445B/20).

Raider
actions.

Following facts emerged from 3 recent engagements between H.M. Ships and enemy armed merchant raiders. (A) Recognition. 1. Raiders must

/be....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Raider actions. -Contd.

be expected to be disguised and will use a name suitable to the disguise in reply to any signal or if an RR RR message is made. 2. Disguise should be penetrated without difficulty provided information of shipping movements as received is relied upon to show that no such ship should be in position of encounter. 3. Information of movements of British, Allied and Neutral shipping passed to ships is sufficiently accurate to enable merchant ships plot to be kept which should slow all merchant shipping likely to be encountered. (B) Challenging. Challenging procedure in accordance with N.C.S.O. 371 and recognition manual was not used in these encounters. This procedure is shortly being extended to all Allied shipping and should assist identification. (C) Tactics. (1) It must be borne in mind that enemy merchant raiders possess a powerful armament of both guns and torpedoes and are capable of accurate fire at long ranges. (2) It should always be suspected that U/B's may be in company with any enemy vessel encountered and that an endeavour will be made to lead the intercepting ship towards these U/B's. (C.in C.S.A. 1455Z/20 to S.A. Station).

ALBATROSS

B.A.R.M. is requested to ascertain whether arrangements can be made for ALBATROSS to be taken in hand in U.S.A. at an early date for repairs to two steam dynamos and one Diesel Dynamo.
(2) C.in C. S.A. is requested to sail ALBATROSS as soon as practicable in anticipation of a favourable reply. Work is not within capacity of Simonstown Dockyard.
(3) Two aircraft should be embarked for A/S protection during passage if they can be operated Aircraft to be disembarked to a N.A.S. as directed by C.in C. A.W.I.
(D.O.D.(F) 1635A/20 to C.in C. S.A. B.A.R.M.).

Air Operations.

Sunderlands 0515-1447 and 1050-1847 A/S escort convoy O.S.13. First Sunderland did not meet but sighted Vichy convoy 2 MV 2 DRS at 1300 1520-010-15. Aircraft was fired on but not damaged while trying to identify nationality. Flying boat probably Vichy escorting also sighted at same time. Second Sunderland met OS 13 - 1221-VTCE 4522 left 1543-

VICE.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Air Operations. -Contd.	VICE 2240. 1 Sunderland and 2 Hudsons 0430-1430-1020-1700 and 1440-2045 A/S escort convoy "Roberts". Convoy not met as nearly 24 hours in advance of expected position and revised position received after noon. Freetown. Patrols (details). (A.H.Q. West Africa 1745/20).
S.S. PERMIAN	Overdue Shanghai PERMIAN Curacao departure 26/11 for Montevideo has not arrived. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2227Z/20).

MOST SECRET

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Jibuti, Dhow Traffic, VENGEUR.

Following addressed Middle East for Ministry of State received from Force Nairobi. Ref. my O/1/17 of 17/12. Free French report many Yemen Dhows at Khorangar. Refugee states 13 Dhows arrived Obok last week. S/M identified as VENGEUR. Fortnightly S/M expected bringing supplies and evacuating 10 men. Vichy plane expected 17th, or 18/12. Italian Commission now only 5. Comment on above. Prospect of early surrender appears to be receding.
(C. in C. M.E., 0005/20 to C. in C. Med.)

Precautions against Human Torpedoes.

Instructions.
(C. in C. Med., 0930B/20 to R.A. Alexandria, V.A. Malta, S.O. M.N.B.D.O., S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, B.N.O. Tobruk, N.O.i/c Mersa Matruh, N.O.i/c Famagusta, Cyprus, N.O.i/c Tripoli (Syria), N.O.i/c Beirut, N.O.i/c Haifa, N.O.i/c Port Said, A.S. Alexandria. (R) F.O.C. Red Sea Force, Admty.)

PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.

F.O.C.R.I.N's 1023/11. Intend following programme for voyage to Bombay.
2. N.O.i/c Port Said is requested to arrange the removal of after torpedo tubes.
3. S.N.O. Red Sea is requested to arrange the embarkation of any ex Italian spare parts and Naval Stores required during refit.
(C. in C. Med., 1018B/20 to C. in C. E.I., etc.)

1 M.V.

1 M.V. position 34° 35' N. 12° 8' E. 6000 ton course 180° 15 knots.
(A/C A830 Squad, 1045B/20.)

Air Operations.

Night 18-19/12 my Opsum 566 results of bombing Benghazi Harbour unobserved 1 Wellington bombed Derna Harbour starting 3 small fires.
Night December 19/20. Weather poor 2 Wellingtons dropped 2 - 4000 lb. bombs on Benghazi results unobserved.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1207/20.)

JAGUAR (rescuing survivors of KANDAHAR.)

Hurricanes will look out for your in 035° 01' N. 014° 14' E. at 1500B/20. Meanwhile do not break W/T silence unless necessary.
(V.A. Malta, 1423B/20 to JAGUAR.)
Cancel my 1423B/20.
(V.A. Malta, 1439B/20 to JAGUAR.)

/2 cruisers ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

2 Cruisers, 3 Destroyers. 2 Cruisers 3 Destroyers 036° 59' 018° 12' 350° 20 Minutes (? knots).
(Capt. (S) 10, 1455B/20 to SOKOL, A/C B to Med. A/C.)

M.V. and destroyer. One M.V. not exceeding 2000 tons. One destroyer bearing 171° distance 9 miles course 110° speed 5 knots position 34.50 N. 11.40 E.
(A/C J, 1522/20 to Med. A/C.)

PERSEUS. Acknowledge my 1521B/14th and my 1741B/18th report E.T.A.
(Capt. (S) 1, 1545B/20 to PERSEUS.)

Mining of Tripoli. H.Q. R.A.F. Malta's (i) 291 19/12. Position of mines laid Tripoli (Africa) night of 18/19 Dec. by Wellingtons. Bearing and distances in cables end of North Mole. 2 mines 270° - ½, 2 mines 090° - ½, 2 mines 090° - 1½.
(V.A. Malta, 1723B/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. A/C Carriers Med.)

Malta Raid. One alert 0717 to 0836 hours, total 40 fighters and bombers, two attacks Ju. 88's Macchis and 109's. Bombs dropped, one civilian killed, 35 injured, scattered damage civilian property. Deluge has arrived once again.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 1750/20.)

Escort for Soviet tankers. My 2355A/16. Soviet Embassy in London pressing for decision. Can reply now be given.
(Hd. of M., 1933A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

SOKOL. My 1705B/19. Cancel patrol off Augusta and leave vicinity Stilo through 035° 51' 015° 15' to arrive at Malta before (?)1800B/22 or 0800B next daylight. Shore directional underwater beam transmission station installed near Messina and east coast of Sicily co-operates with surface air forces.
(Capt. S.10, 2015B/20 to SOKOL, (R) P.31, UNBEATEN.)

/Mining ...

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Mining of KANDAHAR, NEPTUNE, AURORA, PENELOPE 19/12.

JAGUAR successfully rescued 8 Officers 166 ratings of KANDAHAR under very difficult conditions. KANDAHAR subsequently sunk by torpedo. Casualties will be signalled as soon as known. NEPTUNE after striking 2 or 3 mines struck another and capsized. KANDAHAR endeavouring to get alongside was mined and drifted away. Fear little possibility of survivors visible AURORA following in wake of NEPTUNE also mined and holed, out of action for at least three weeks. PENELOPE struck a mine while turning but not holed or seriously damaged. Being docked Monday. Position of minefield approx. 033° 15' N. 013° 12' E. It is considered that the enemy cannot have any idea of this loss.
(R.A. Malta, 2023B/20 to F.O.(D) Med., Admty., etc.)
Arrival 20/12 JAGUAR, URGE.
(V.A. Malta, 2024B/20.)

TREHANDRI.

Small ammunition carrier TREHANDRI 200 tons with grey hull left Gulf of Athens today course 180° probably bound for Candia or Suda Bay.
(Capt. S.1, 2215/20 to THORN.)

Libya.

No further news of today's operations as 13th Corps. H.Q. has been moving. R/C aircraft reported submarine stern on to jetty at Bardia at 1530 today.
8 heavy 6 light A/A guns sent to Derna. 12 of each ready for Benghazi. H.Q. 8th Army Intelligence Summary 71 appendix "A" gives information concerning Keyes party.
(N.L.O. 8th Army, 2256B/20 to C. in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.30.
B.P.31.
B.P.31.B.
etc.

My 0754/3. B.P.30 cancelled. Following moves have been arranged. Bombay Basra B.P.31A 7/1. 4 personnel ships. NEURALIA, TAKLIWA, NEVASA, CITY OF LONDON. This sailing date depends on the arrival date of W.S. 12 Z.B. Bombay Basra B.P.31B. 9/1. VARELA with troops and stores. Karachi Basra 9/1. SANTHIA with troops and stores.
Bombay Colombo 30/12 two store ships.
Bombay Colombo 6/1 one store ship.
7/1 3 M.T. ships. Can the Bombay Colombo store ships proceed without escort.
(P.S.T.O. India 0721Z/20 to C.in C. E.I.).

EMERALD
DAUNTLESS

Durban departure 20/12 EMERALD 10262 in accordance with (? C.in C. E.I's) 1220Z 19th S.of A.,16½ knots E.T.A. Kilindini 0400Z/25.
(ii) DAUNTLESS 12012 S.of A.,20 knots E.T.A. Simonstown 0600Z/22.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1203Z/20).

Diego
Garcia

Troopers state all supplies for Diego Garcia Garrison are in future to be sent from Mauritius instead of India.
2. This arrangement will result in a most uneconomical use of shipping observing I am already committed to supplying Addu Atoll from Ceylon and had intended same ship would also supply Diego Garcia.
3. The situation in the Indian Ocean may well reach point where independent sailings cannot be accepted. Under these circumstances the escorts required will be difficult to find.
4. Request Troopers may be asked to report on this decision.
(C.in C. E.I. 1416Z/20 to Admty.).

COMMANDANT
DOMINE.

Arrived Mombasa 0830Z/19. Sailing from Mombasa A.M./21 E.T.A. Aden 26/12 about noon. 16 days for repairs are urgently required.
(COMMANDANT DOMINE 1635B/20, to C.in C. F.N.F.L.).

Burma.

Again no enemy activity reported which is puzzling. R/C of Victoria Point - Mosed revealed no troop or air movements and no concentration of boats for possible movement on Mergui. Now some doubt whether Japanese have occupied Victoria Point.
(Govr. Burma 2325/20).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20. 12. 1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong.

Operation proceeding on line roughly north south through Wongneicho Fuss Gap which we hold. B.C. say Japanese story about my departure has been discounted. Suggest categorical denial. x
(Govr., Hong Kong, 0151Z/20, to Admty.)
17th. Stonecutters W/T broken down. Very heavy shelling of Island during forenoon. Further delegation sent by Japanese. Surrender refused. Thursday. Repeated bombing attacks during day and heavy shelling of Dockyard. P.M. enemy landed North Point Takoo Area. Friday. Enemy landing in some force confirmed. Penetration towards south of Island extensive. M.T.B. attacked craft crossing from Kowloon Bay and 4 enemy landing craft with troops sunk. M.T.B.12 and 26 sunk 07 damaged. Enemy penetrated to neighbourhood. Deep Water and Aberdeen and situation extremely confused. A.P.V. Oiler EBONOL B.D.V. BARLIGHT and H.M.S. TERN who were unable to steam were scuttled. H.M.S. CICALA, ROBIN, REDSTART M.T.B.09, 10, 11, 27 in service 07 hopes to be available shortly. Bomb attacks and shelling continued during daylight.
(Cdre Hong Kong 0245Z/20).
* Note message received very corrupt.

Malaya.

Situation Report. (Adv. H.Q., M.C., 0316/20 to W.O.) See Lion Copy.

SAIDJA, GADILA and SAROENA.

Your 2241/19 arrangements made.
(C. in C.E.F., 0750Z/20 to Admty. (R) R.A. Malaya.)

Hong Kong Communiques.

Pass following to S. of S. for Colonies. Following communique issued 0930 to-day (begins) Yesterday afternoon we launched a successful counter attack against enemy in neighbourhood of Wongneichonand Gap. Japanese were thrown back from this keypoint which previously had been in their hands for a short period and we have since maintained our line. There have been no further enemy advances and throughout night we remained in control of situation. Heavy shelling of mid level of city took place towards dusk yesterday and there was some damage. Enemy bombing attacks throughout day were continued (ends) Following communique issued 1230/?18 (begins.) Operations have been proceeding satisfactorily to-day.

/Parties.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Hong Kong Communiques. (Contd.)

Parties of enemy have been mopped up in Repulse Bay area and our troops have pushed enemy forces back across Happy Valley. Message has been received from General Yuhanmow from which it appears his forces are now within very short distance of Hong Kong and that relief for garrison may be expected in near future. During morning force of 3 bombers escorted by 6 fighter aircraft was seen carrying out dive bombing attacks on Japanese on north of Kowloon. Governor. (Ends.)
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0842Z/20, to Admty.)

Destroyers.

Arrival 19/12 TENEDOS, STRONGHOLD, departure 20/12, SCOUT.
(S.O.I. Singapore, 1033Z/20, to Admty.)

Daily operational summary up to 1030Z/20.

R/C's directed to areas 300 miles N.N.E., Singapore visibility good negative report. Armed R/C's Malay East Coast. Armed R/C's Rhio Archipelago and 107° to depth 70 miles from Rhio Straits and 106° to depth 80 miles from Horsboro Light had object also locate H.M.S. LIPIS now arrived Singapore from Kuching. Photographic R/C's Sungei (Patani.) A/S patrol for minelayer Durien Straits enemy aircraft interception Pulo Tioman area negative. Armed R/C's from Sinkawang 50 miles W.N.W. seaward from line Tanjong Batu Belat and Paloh River having object locate and attack enemy aircraft carrier carried out this morning and not on 19/12 as ordered and mentioned in my Oprep.5. Results negative. Total aircraft involved 1 P.R.U. Buffalo, 2 Vildebeestes, 2 Catalinas. 3 Glenn Martins, 3 Blenheims, 1 Hudson 14 Buffaloes and 3 Glenn Martins and 8 Buffaloes from Sinkawang.
Photo R/C's 19/12 no indication of enemy operating from Alor Star aerodrome. At Sungei Patani aerodrome about 30 enemy fighters. No group disbanded and our fighters now based at Kuala Lumpur. Summary of operationally serviceable aircraft position as follows.
(Air H.Q.F.E., 1205/20, 1216/20.)

Malaya evacuations.

Your 0437/19 not to C. in C. E.F. Agree your proposal subject to approval of C. in C.E.F.
2. Suggest U.S. Citizens be embarked in ORION which will return to U.K. via Panama Canal. Passengers could disembark at Panama or possible Halifax if it is decided to make a call there.
(D. of S.T. 2230A/20 to F.O. Malaya.)

/German.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.12.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. Contd.

German Internees, Sumatra. No. 261. My No. 106 of 9/8/1940. About 2,000 German internees in North Sumatra including many technicians and men with military training. Consider with Dutch security authorities they should be sent without delay for internment in British India if Netherlands Govt., agree and shipping available. In view of Japanese approach to Sumatra by way of Penang, I recommend that every effort be made for removal now. (Consul-Gen., Batavia, No. T.O.O./20.)

America & West Indies.

D/G defects. 1. Knowledge of D.G. defects governs destination allotted to ships. If defects are not communicated until after sailing diversions at sea are caused. Request therefore that names of ships likely to sail with defective D.G. be indicated in advance sailing telegrams. 2. Owing to several recent mistakes attention is called to A.M.2008/26/2 not to Sydney and to I.C.O.C. No. 4. third para.
(D.T.D., 1156A/20 to C.O.A.C.Halifax, N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. etc.)

A/S escort for WARSPITE. Your 0138A/17. Destroyer and air escort arranged.
(B.A.D., 1315R/20, to Admty.)

Washington Report. Washops 10. 1. Philippines. A report from Manila dated 18/12 states that up to that date the Japanese had used 17 warships and 24 transports in their attack on Luzon.
2. Hawaii. From midnight 16/17/12 to midnight 18/19, there has been (1) no air activity (2) radio interference has diminished (3) presence of one S/M off Hawaii and one off Molokai has been confirmed. There are no further reports of the Japanese midget S/Ms being active. 3. Johnston Island. Examination of damage caused by the bombardment and of fragments of shell recovered indicates that the bombarding ships mounted 5.5" gun.
(J.S.M., Washington, 1331R/20, to Admty., etc.)

/Pacific.....

MOST SECRET.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.Contd.

Pacific Shipping.

My 1341R/18 not to Admiralty. Pending final decision Opnav is instructing Com. 12 that for the time being (A) N.Z.N.B., N.O., Wellington, will route U.S.A., Flag shipping from Australia and New Zealand to west coast. Present approx., routes to be south of Chatham Island and east of Marquesas Island. (B) Return route will not be given to ships sailing from U.S.A. Ports.
(B.A.D., 1345R/20, to N.Z.N.B., etc.)

M.O.M.P. for O.N. convoys.

O.N. Convoys. Reference A.M. 1934A/21/8, para. D,adherence to the date of M.O.M.P. recommended a fortnight in advance has in many instances proved impracticable owing to weather conditions. Propose for your consideration that route recommendation should include date of sailing from Liverpool and that M.O.M.P. recommendation be given only in the information signal on each convoy reaching the open sea. In reasonable weather O.N. convoys take about 4 days to reach the longitude of 22 30 W., and O.N.S. convoys about 5 days.
(A.C.N.S.(T) 1400Z/20 to Opnav.)

BROOKLYN WILSON.

Cancel my 2200/19.
(Opnav 1420/20.)

S.C.61.

My 1318Z/19. Delete SOREL and ST. CLAIR who will sail to overtake and assume S.O. on joining.
(C.C.N.F., 1424Z/20, to Admty., etc.)

DIOMEDE.

Left Cristobal 1600R/20.
(N.C.S.O. Colon, 1612/20, to Admty.)

Suggested use of Lourenco Marques.

(1) U.S. Authorities suggest that since congestion is being caused at Capetown due to U.S. Ships carrying lease - Lend cargoes for Red Sea calling there for onward routeing, instructions and bunkering, a proportion of these ships should be routed from U.S.A. direct to Lourenco Marques. Bunkering facilities for 40 or 50 ships a month could be arranged at that port by California Texas Oil Co. (ii) Request opinion (a) Whether this step is necessary to relieve congestion: (b) If so, whether it is desirable for onward routeing to be carried out by C.S.A.Lourenco Marques.
(B.A.D., 1615R/20, to Admty., N.O.I.C. Simonstown.) Reply: Admty. 1326/27.

/MAYFLOWER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.Contd.

MAYFLOWER. C.C.N.F.'s 2040Z/15. Confirm MAYFLOWER will arrive Charleston 2000 zone 5/22/12.
(C.O.A.C., 1619Z/20, to B.A.R.M.)

Japanese Disposition. U.S.A. Naval Intelligence reports foll. Disposition Japanese Aircraft Carriers.
1. South China and Gulf of Siam, AKAGI, and KAGA, with 60 Aircraft each.
2. Luzon Formosa. 2 Aircraft Carriers with approx., 70 Aircraft including Air Squadrons Nos. 6 and 7. Also 5 converted seaplane tanders with total of 60 Aircraft.
3. Saipan-Palao (Mandates). SORYU and HIRYU with 42 aircraft each. Also possibly RYUJO with 30 aircraft.
4. Hawaii - Mandates Area. 4-6 Aircraft Carriers with total approx., 124-180 aircraft.
B. Foll. bases reported used by Japanese fighters. (1) Basco in Batan Islands. (2) Vigan. (3) Aparri. (4) Legaspi. C.C. Manila. reports Japanese using ME.109's with black cross marking. D. Jettisoned Belly Tanks from 00 and 01 type ship borne fighters have capacity of 8 Galls. E. Report from Bandoeng states aerodrome at Miri Sarawak, is probably being re-constructed by Japanese. Please inform Admiralty.
(Rafdel, 1920/20, to Airwhit.)

NEWCASTLE. Your 1752Q/18. Destination Devonport.
2. C. in C. A. & W.I., to report by signal any essential items of work to be carried out at Devonport during leave period.
(V.C.N.S., 2003A/20, to C. in C.A.W.I.)

ALBATROSS. Admty. 1635Z/20. Aircraft should be disembarked at Bermuda.
(C. in C.A.W.I., 2213Q/20 to C in C.S.A.).

Information of U.S.Movements. Following received, originally addressed Atlantic Fleet for action, all Naval Coastal Frontier Commanders Opnav for information, now sent to you for information. The S.O. of a fleet detachment departing from port is responsible for informing the local echelon of the N.C.F. Command approx., time of departure.

/The S.O.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.12.1941. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Information of U.S. Movements -Contd.

The S.O. of a fleet detachment at sea shall inform the appropriate N.C.F. Commander about 24 hours prior to predicted arrival of the detachment at any port or ports within the Frontier Command. Information in each case shall include composition of detachment and expected track while within limits of the N.C.F. which approximate an average of about 100 miles off shore. Such instructions herein contained as may be in conflict with N.D.P.1 when received are automatically abrogated thereby.
(Cinclant, 2359/20, to Admty.).

Australia & New Zealand.

Japanese Carrier Australian Landing at Dilli.

My 0651Z/18. Sighting of enemy aircraft indicates that a Japanese aircraft (or seaplane) carrier is operating between Nissan and Kapingamarangi which latter place was bombed by Hudson Aircraft 18/12. Force which landed at Dilli 17/12 included Australiam Troops and it is now known that local Governor offered formal resistance. Full military control of Portuguese Timor deferred pending clarification of Portuguese attitude.
(A.C.N.B. 0700Z/20 to Admty. etc.).

LE TRIOMPHANT.

Arrival Brisbane 1435Z/19, escorting ORMISTION.
(A.C.N.B. 0929Z/20 to Admty. etc.).

Merchant ships.

1. Following ships due shortly Fremantle should be sailed CHINA VERA Bahrein. OSTHAV BELITA GYLFE Abadan.
2. Your Vesca 0756/17 did my 1854/12 reach you too late.
(D.T.D. 1742A/20 to N.C.S.O. Fremantle).

QUEEN MARY.

My 0351/19, request report also of length of time QUEEN MARY will require in dry dock itself.
(D.of S.T. 2037A/20 to A.C.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

STANLEY
RUCKINGE.
(torpedoed
19/12.)

(i) At 2230A/18 in 180° Carnero 5 miles HAARLEM sighted and engaged U-Boat steering east. All available destroyers and M.L's sent to hunt without success.
(ii) At dusk 18th in 037° 00' N., 016° 48' West U-Boat sighted on Port Beam of H.G.76 convoy.
(iii) At 0415A/19 probably 2 miles astern of convoy STANLEY was torpedoed and sunk. STORK obtained A/S contact and destroyed U-Boat.
(iv) At 0515A/19 RUCKINGE in convoy H.G.76 torpedoed.
(v) At 1340A/19 when in 039° 00' N., 018° 00'W., STORK reported U-Boat bearing 183° 22 miles.
(F.O.C.N.A., 0016A/20 to Admty.)

CASSEQUEL.
(torpedoed
15/12.)

17 of crew of CASSEQUEL who were missing have been picked up. (D.S., 837.)

Submarines Reported.

2300Z/19.

Bearing by D/F at 2300Z/19 position of enemy U-Boat(s) was 069° 48' N., 033° 05' E. Unreliable fix.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0316C/20 to Admty., 0332C/20 to SEAWOLF.)

0935.

D/F at 0935/20 G.M.T. suggests that U-Boat is in the vicinity of convoy H.G.76.
(D.D.I.C. 1114A/20 to Escort of H.G.76. F.O.C.N.A.)

Estimated approx., positions of U-Boats.
(D.D.I.C. 1430A/20. 1431A/20.)

1800A.

Two submarines 320° 23 miles from 040° 56' N., 020° 22'W., at 1800A. My P.C. and S., are at 2000A, 041° 08' N., 020° 14' W., 020° 7½ knots. Condor shadowed this forenoon. Prisoner stated U-Boat last ?(refuelled at) Vigo.
(STORK, 2100A/20, to C. in C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

By STORK. 19/12.
P.O.C.N.A. 0016A/20.
See Ships Attacked.

By 2nd.D.F.
Hunting suspected S/M in position 274° RET. 18 miles. NEREUS and OSIRIS on the surface and clear.
(S.O.2nd D.F., 1034/20 to Alexandria C.C.O.)

By HERMIONE.
Have counter attacked firm contact in position (? 218°) Europa 3 miles.
(HERMIONE, 1052/20, to Gibraltar W/T.)

By WESTCOTT.
One S/M bearing 290° 7 miles approx., true course unknown. Position OMNA 1244.
(indecipherable.)
(WESTCOTT 1055A/20.)
My 1055A 20th no further contact with submarine which was sighted 1050 by C.O. at between 5 and 7 miles. Am continuing search till 2000 then proceeding to original destination. 049° 00' 016° 13' weather report.
(WESTCOTT 1430A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)
My 1430A/20. Have carried out 4 attacks on probable U-boat in 48° 40' N., 16° 32' W. Result doubtful owing to pronounced skip effects. Unexplained explosion was heard after last attack at 1845. Remaining in the vicinity till midnight.
(WESTCOTT, 2230A/20, to C. in C.W.A.)

2200/19.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.12.1941.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked. Contd.

2200/19. Good sound contact and propellor noises attacked at 2200 G.C.T/19 in 27.28 N. 79.20 W. Results oil on water and prop noises ceased. This contact is probably same sub. as reported by plane 1350 G.C.T./18 in 25 50 N., 79 50 W.
(Opnav 1538/20 to Adty., C. in C.A.W.I.)

By Swordfish. (1) Swordfish ASV A/S patrol 1830/19 to 0930/20 area 15 miles radius Spartel. 1 U-Boat, sighted and attacked at 2141, 265° Spartel 2½ effect unknown.
(200 Group, 2210/20.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Harwich remained closed until 0840A owing to fog.

Mining.

Operation N.L. 50.

M.L's 101 and 102 laid mines last night near Dunkirk.

The ports of Tees and Hartlepool will be closed daily from dusk until noon next day, owing to suspected minelaying.

S.S. NELLIE (Greek) was mined off Spurn Point and was beached for safety on Haile Sand. S.S. BENMACDHUI in F.N. 83 was mined and sunk at 2145 off H.5 buoy.

There was marked enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary from 1740 to 1820 today, and mines were laid.

North Atlantic.

It is reported that a convoy of 20 ships is being formed at Casablanca and will sail shortly for Marseilles escorted by warships.

South Atlantic.

RAMILLIES arrived at Freetown today with Convoy W.S.14.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Trials are being carried out with a Wellington A/C converted to carry two 18 inch torpedoes. The use of such aircraft would enable us to attack enemy forces and merchant shipping in almost any part of the central Mediterranean.

TRUANT reports that on 11/12 she torpedoed a large tanker entering Suda Bay and believes she sank it.

URGE reports that at 0858B/14 in 37° 53' N. 15° 29' E. she fired a salvo of torpedoes at 2 battleships escorted by 4 destroyers steering 207°. There were 2 definite hits at correct running time and interval and a probable third. At 0927 UNIQUE sighted one battleship and one destroyer in 37° 43' N. 15° 36' E. steering 125° at 20 knots. URGE came to P.C. depth at 0940 after being heavily counter attacked, and sighted this battleship and destroyer to S.E. steering 90° no other battleship could have passed east of URGE without detection.

East Indies.

Convoy B.M. 9 sailed from Bombay today for Singapore, carrying 8600 Indian troops.

China.

Hong Kong. The Governor at 0521Z today asked H.M. Govt. for permission to make terms if necessary. A position is rapidly being reached at which the only remaining resistance open to the defence will be to hold for a short time only a small pocket in the centre of the city. The War Office at 1542A sent a message to the G.O.C. to endeavour by all means in his power including

/gunfire....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Hong Kong - Contd.

gunfire to wreck the oil installations and storages. The troops are tired and food and ammunition stores cannot be reached as the position is surrounded.
CICALA was bombed and sunk today. The dockyard was heavily shelled and bombed; several fires were started but were got under control.

Malaya and Siam.

The Chiefs of Staff are representing urgently to the U.S. authorities that the 90 U.S. aircraft now arrived atBrisbane should be sent to Singapore.

Dutch S/M O.16 has been sunk apparently on the east Johore minefield on 12/12. There is one survivor.

A battery explosion which caused several casualties occurred in Dutch S/M K.13 in the Naval Base at Singapore this morning.

It is reported that 5,000 reinforcements from Tongking are being sent to Singora by sea. The date and place of departure are not known.

Philippines.

The C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports from Davao landing operations today in which 12 transports, a cruiser and 3 destroyers are engaged.

Wake.

There have been two further air raids (one last night) on the island and considerable damage has been caused. At 1321R it was reported that only one 3 inch A.A. battery was left in action.

U-boat Campaign.

At 1115A STORK reported two U-boats in 42° 23' N. 20° 19' W, one of which was unable to dive. These U-boats had been sighted by aircraft alongside each other, transferring men, 3 of whom the aircraft shot. One U-boat had a hole in its side. The relief aircraft was unable to locate either U-boat, and it is presumed the damaged boat either dived or was scuttled. Collision during the night is suggested as the cause.

/STORK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

U-boat Campaign-Contd.

STORK despatched ships of the escort of H.G. 76 to attack but asked for long range aircraft to attack also; none were, however, available in Western Approaches Command until tomorrow. AUDACITY and S.S. ANNAVORE were torpedoed this evening in 138° 44° N. 20° W. 8 miles. AUDACITY sank.

U-boat prisoners have volunteered the information that their boat fuelled and provisioned from a German merchant ship in Vigo during the night 14/15 Dec. F.O.C.N.A. suggest that maximum pressure should be brought to bear on the Spanish Govt. to have the 3 German ships in the refuelling refuge at Vigo removed.

S.S. HELLEN (Norw.) was torpedoed off Cape Negro at 2310A today whilst escorted by ARCTIC RANGER. The ship was inside territorial waters.

A Swordfish attacked and sank a German U-boat at 0320A today in 330° Spartel 13 miles. One survivor was picked up by MYOSOTIS.

The following attacks by enemy S/M's on U.S. merchant ships off the Pacific coast have been reported in the last 48 hours:- Off Columbia River 46° 30' N. S.S. DOHENY, SAINT CLAIR by gunfire. Off Cape Mendocino 40° 30' N. S.S. SAMOA by gunfire 18/12, tanker EMIDIO sunk by torpedo and gunfire. Off Santa Cruz 37° 0' N. S.S. AGWIWORLD by gunfire. Most of these attacks were carried out by night.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Norwegian M.F.V's to be replaced.

Your 2124A/18. Names as follows. VAAGSFJORD ANDHOLMEN SJOGUTTEN VESTFJORD RIKENS. (A.C.I.C. 1903N/21).

Co-operation with Russia.

Use of Murmansk by Russian Convoys.

Following from Sir Stafford Cripps to Llewellin Allied Supplies Executive for Maclay. (Begins) Question of use of Murmansk was fully discussed on 18/12 by Admiral Miles and Hynard with Mikoyam who stated that Papanyn already had authority to (grp undec.) ships between Murmansk and the White Sea, as necessitated by conditions, in consultation, as regards British ships, with British local authorities. He stated that 3 or 4 ships could be received at Murmansk now and 6 or 7 in a few weeks time. If therefore local Soviet authorities are still in doubt as to their powers it would appear desirable for them to ask at one for clarification from Moscow (Ends). (D.N.I. 1826A/21 to S.B.N.O. Archangel).

Movements.

SUFFOLK.

Scapa departure SUFFOLK. E.T.A. Tyne 1530/21. (A.C.O.S. 0156/21).

LAMERTON ESKIMO.

My 1214A/19. R/V with ESKIMO in 245°. Muckle Flugga 11 miles 0930/22. ESKIMO proceeds east Shetlands. (R.A.D.H.F. 1303A/21 to LAMERTON).

NIGERIA.

Intend to sail NIGERIA for Scapa at 1230/23. Ship is fitted with S.A. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1542/21).

CHITRAL
ALAUNIA
WORCESTERSHIRE
PRETORIA CASTLE.
EMPIRE FULMAR
GARLAND.
SULTAN HISSAR.

Intend sailing CHITRAL, ALAUNIA, WORCESTERSHIRE, PRETORIA CASTLE, and EMPIRE FULMAR escorted by GARLAND and SULTAN HISSAR passing Clyde Boom at 1600A/22 to R/V with ACTIVE from Londonderry in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 0115A/23. Thence as in C.in C. W.A. 1027A/20. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1544A/21).

ILLUSTRIOUS

E.T.A. Clyde 1820. (ILLUSTRIOUS 1637Z/21). Arrived ILLUSTRIOUS. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1928A/21).

/VANQUISHER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
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/VANQUISHER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. -Contd.

VANQUISHER VOLUNTEER WITCH.	Return to Moville forthwith and refuel. (C.in C. W.A. 1813A/21 to VANQUISHER, VOLUNTEER, WITCH).
NORTHERN SKY (Illness of Officer).	A.C.I.C's 1308. Regret ships are not to deviate for this. (C.in C. H.F. 1932A/21 to RENOWN, RODNEY).
LANCASTER	Your 1821A/21 addressed ILLUSTRIOUS. Return to Port Z.A. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2116A/21 to LANCASTER).

Operations.

Operation "Anklet".	Sailed PRINCESS J. CHARLOTTE to R/V WHEATLAND in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1000A/21, thence via Minches to destination as in R.A.D.H.F. 2315A/19. E.T.A. A.M./22. S.of A. 16 knots. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0318A/21). My 0058/18. D.1 day is 26/12. H.Q.C.C. pass to 18 Gp. (R.A.D.H.F. 1301A/21 to H.Q.C.C.).
	Scapa departures ESKIMO, PRINCE ALBERT, and GREY RANGER. (A.C.O.S. 1612A/21).
S/M patrol of Cherbourg.	Leave patrol after dark tonight routed as follows. (A) H. 32 on surface at her discretion through following positions for Falmouth. Keep east of 004° 15' W. until daylight. (B) P.38 through 050° N. 001° 45' W. to R/V 050° 31' N. 000° 41' W. at 0845/22 for Portsmouth. (C) Bombing restrictions arranged as follows. (Capt. S.5 1000A/21 to H.32, P.38). 1. KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL and KINGSTON TOPAZ will be at R/V at 0845/22. 2. Sanctuary in force from 0745 to 1200/22. 4. Keep south of 050° 25' N. until 0730. (Capt. S.5 1749A/21 to P.38). 1. LOCK PARK will be at R/V at 1200/22. 2. Convoy P.W.84 expected Falmouth 1100/22. No other movements affect you. (Capt S.5. 1751A/21 to H.32).
Biscay S/M Patrol.	My 1643A/20. Amend as follows. Para C D E G H K L M. Submarines named leave patrol after dark 21st for Falmouth by their outward route submerged by day. Para 1. URSULA leaves patrol 2359/21 for Portsmouth submerged by day. Para F. and J. Submarines named are proceeding to Gibraltar. Para. N. and OP.P38 and H.32 leave patrol after

/dark...

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. -Contd.

dark 21st for Portsmouth and Falmouth respectively.
(F.O.S. 1007A/21 to Admty.).
R/V with M/S trawlers in 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at daylight. T.B.R. in force in area radius 20 miles from R/V from daylight till noon. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1155/21 to S/M's Area A, negative URSULA, P.38).
(A) F.O.(S) 2139A/20 para. (B). Delete 0.10 and 0.21.
(B) After dark/21 0.10 and 0.21 are to proceed by outward routes as far as lat 49° N. thence to R/V in vicinity of Bishops Rock on 23/12 as ordered by S.7 for onward passage direct to Clyde.
(F.O.S. 1243A/21 to S/M's Area A).
F.O.S. 1243A/21 (a) From Lat. 049° N. proceed to R/V with CUTTY SARK at 0930A/23 in 290° Bishops Rock 8 miles.
(Capt. S.7 1601A/21 to ?.10).
Cancel my 1155/21. F.O.(S)'s 2139A/20 para. (B). R/V at 0900 with M/S Trawlers and BREDA in 180° Lizard 5 miles on 24/12. T.B.R. in force in area radius 20 miles from R/V from 0800A/24 until 1200A/24.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1636/21 to H.31, H.50, H.28, H.33Y, JUNON, OTWAY).
Captain (S) 3 1139A/21. R/V with 0.10 and 0.21 in 290° Bishops Rock 8 miles at 0930A/23 and escort them to Rothesay and Holy Loch respectively, arriving Clyde 1200A/25.
(Capt. S.7. 1721A/21 to CUTTY SARK).
Continue to take every possible precaution to avoid detection in joining area.
(F.O.S. 2216A/21 to S/M's Area A).

Chase of E-Boats on 20/12.

My 1852A/20/12. Cancel para 2 and substitute QUORN intercepted 3 E-boats close eastward of 57G buoy at 0230/20 and pursued them to the eastward until contact was lost. No details of damage to enemy known.
(C.in C. Nore. 1114A/21).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

My 1901Z/19, Para. 3. Intended to sail ANEMONE and SWEETBRIAR from Hvalfiord a.m./22nd for patrol 30 miles North Eastward of Q.Z.X.366. Information to BERWICK follows.
(C.S.1 1226Z/21 to C.in C. H.F.).
My 1226Z/21. A. Corvettes ordered to patrol to N.E. of minefield in line abreast 10 (corrupt groups being called for) on 16 miles beat parallel to ice edge. Northern bank about 8 miles from ice. S.W. end of beat 30 miles from minefield.
(B) Both ships fitted with type 271.
(C) Routed coastwise to (?Straummales?) thence east of minefield. E.T.A. on patrol am/24.

/D. BERWICK.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol -Contd.

D. BERWICK is to make contact with Corvettes in daylight at intervals of not more than 48 hours to give them their position.
E. Corvettes W/T watch.
(F.O.C. 1.C.S. 2021Z/21 to BERWICK,A.C.I.C.).
Denmark Straits Corvette patrol. In order to avoid false enemy reports A.C.I.C. is requested to assume responsibility for passing direct to corvettes on patrol information of shipping passing Denmark Straits.
(C.S.1 2042Z/21 to A.C.I.C.).
My 1226Z/21. Denmark Strait patrol corvettes keep wireless watch as for Northern patrol trawlers maintaining constant watch on 1570 Kilocycles per second. Enemy reports will be transmitted to shore on this frequency and broadcast on 500 Kc/s. A.C.I.C. is requested to retransmit any message required by corvettes on port waves using alternate method.
(C.S.1 2043Z/21 to C.in C. H.F. A.C.I.C.).

East Coast Patrols.

Brightlingsea Auxiliary patrols remaining in harbour owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1436A/21).
Carry out patrol A and B tonight commencing at H.3 Buoy at 2030.
(C.in C. Nore. 1443A/21 to WALPOLE).
HAMBLEDON will relieve you on patrol area tomorrow. Return to Harwich on completion of patrol tonight.
(Capt. D.16 1730A/21 to WALPOLE).

Dover Patrol.

M.L's 104 and 102 leave Dover at 2300 to carry out N.L.I.B. and return at 0300/22. Route via South Varne buoy each way.
(V.A. Dover 1531A/21).

Operation Q.N.

My 1750A/20. QN postponed further 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore. 1545A/21).
Search back to 54 E buoy for E-boats.
(C.in C. Nore. 2049/21 to WESTMINSTER).
If you find nothing on reaching 54 E buoy proceed to Humber L/V reporting your E.T.A.
(C.in C. Nore. 2159A/21 to WESTMINSTER).
Departure M.G.B's 60, 67.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2159A/21).
Departure M.G.B's 88, 86, 91, 16 on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2205A/21).

Operation "Archer"

Intend to sail TUNA escorted by STELLA PEGASI at 1000/23 passing east of Orkneys and Shetlands to 060° 52' N. 000° 22' W. E.T.A. 0300/24. Then unescorted diving by day to 062° 12' N. 004° 20' E. thence to area of operations.
Request S.B.R. as follows. (A.C.O.S. 1831A/21).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
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HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Escorts for RODNEY RENOWN.

Your 1427A/20. A/S cover will be provided for RODNEY from dawn to 1400A and for RENOWN from 1400 A to dusk 21/12 by Whitley A/C. (A.C.I.C. 0025N/21 to C.in C. H.F.).
My 2322A/20. A/C may approach to 5000 yards with I.F.F. switched on flying at 1000 feet. Listening watch will be kept on R/T but will only be used if called by ship.
(C.in C. W.A. 0107A/21 to RENOWN).
Expect A/S escort by Hudson from first light. Aircraft may approach to 5000 yards with I.F.F. switched on flying at 1000 feet.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1839/21 to RODNEY).

Missing A/C.

Your 1601/21. LANCASTER and NEWARK have been detached to search 1 missing aircraft west of Machrihanish.
(ILLUSTRIOUS 1650/21).

A/S Operational method.

Admty. Amendment. 1947A/19.
(D.N.A.D. 1847A/21).

H.G.76

Heartiest congratulations on magnificient work of escorts and F.A.A. with H.G.76.
(H.Q.C.C. 1917/21 to D.A./S.W.).

Enemy Air Activity.

FAULKNOR FORESIGHT.

You were probably reported by enemy A/C about 1050. (D.D.I.C. 1156A/21 to FAULKNOR, FORESIGHT).

Method of Attack.

Western Approaches General Message. (262) N.
In 3 recent air attacks in South Irish Sea enemy A/C have attacked in pairs, one A/C approached first and drew anti-aircraft fire of convoy and escort, the second then approached and carried out a low attack. This stresses the obvious necessity of vigilant look-out on the disengaged side.
(C.in C. W.A. 1239A/21).

Mining.

Operation N.L.50

By M.L's 101 and 102, at 0123/21 in 51° 4' N. 2° 14' 12" E. extending 175° for 6 cables. Details.
(V.A. Dover 0925A/21).

Off Bodo.

Report graded B.3. Minefield laid mid December 4 miles off Bodo 67° 17' N. 14° 23' E.
(D.D.I.C. 1039A/21).

/26.C.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

26.C. WELLS R/V with SOUTHERN PRINCE in 240° Rudh Re 5 miles at 1100A/23 for operations 26.C. (R.A.M., 1113A/21.)
Owing to delay in arrival of WELLS operation 26.C must be delayed 6½ hours. Amend my 1326/20th as follows.
(e) Request air A/S escort from 1330/23 in 058° 25' N. 005° 42' W. until last light.
(g) 0830/23.
(i) 1500/23.
(o) and (p) Port Z.A. 2330/23.
(R.A.M., 1124A/21.)

Off Whitby. Detonated 2 acoustic mines at 1200 approx. in 54° 40'55" N. 0° 7'25" W.
(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 1240/21.)

Thames Estuary. Between 1735 and 1930/20 there was intense enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary.
Plots were obtained of between 20 and 30 planes.
Chief plotted activity on areas Knob and Edinburgh Channels and the Black Deep. Planes were heard as far west as the Boom and definite minelaying activity was reported in the Knob Channel and Barrow Deep. Explosions probably due to mines occurred off Bartons Point, Sheerness, Shoeburyness, and further out in the Estuary. Definite positions have been reported in X.D.O's 0910A/21.
Majority of patrol vessels fogbound in Sheerness. But the visibility at the time of the raid had increased to about 10 cables in the outer estuary. The only 2 mines actually seen are thought to have exploded soon after having been laid.
The only report so far received of aircraft actually sighted estimates the height as 700 feet.
Ships of F.S. and F.N. Convoys were anchored at intervals in or near the channels from the Boom to the far end of the Barrow Deep.
The only 2 patrol vessels out each reported a mine near them.
(S.O. T.L.D.F., 1253/21.)

N.L.1B. Intend to carry out operation N.L.1B tonight.
(V.A. Dover, 1416A/21.)

Drifting Mine. Following received from Cullercoats Radio intercepted 1529 G.M.T.
T T T Mine Warning. Drifting mine observed at 1300 Tjockoe Archipeligo Nord Himmelskaer distance 0.2 minutes wind West.
(C. in C. Rosyth, No T.O.O., Recd. 1914/21.)

/Tees .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 21.12.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. -Contd.

Tees Hartlepool. — Ports of Tees and Hartlepool will be closed daily owing to suspected minelaying until further notice from dusk until noon approx. following day. (N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1815/21) (C.in C. Rosyth 2151/21 to WESTMINSTER etc.).

NELLIE (Greek 4826 tons) damaged. — Damaged by mine off Spurn Point and beached for Safety Haile Sand. (F.O. Humber 2220A/21).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest. — Brest 1315/21. All 3 main units in respective docks. GUEYDON moored off Lanveoc. (D.D.I.C. 1839A/21) (F.O.S. 2151A/21).

E-Boats. — Suspected 'E' Boat activity W.G. (Harwich W/T 2007/21 to Yarmouth W/T). E-boat activity in Yarmouth vicinity. (C.in C. Nore. 2033A/21).

Navigational.

Harwich. — Port remaining closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0805A/21). Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0840A/21).

Mew Light. — My 1845A/18. Mew light and whistle buoy. Light reported irregular and whistle out of action. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1810A/21). My 1810A/21. Mew light now reported extinguished. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2110A/21).

6A Buoy — 6A Buoy light extinguished. Report unconfirmed. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1906A/21).

Technical.

D/C Tests. — If in over 200 fathoms detail one Corvette to drop six depth charges one at a time set to safe and note time of explosion if any. Report if already inside necessary depth. (C.in C. W.A. 1025A/21 to WANDERER).

MOST SECRET.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE CHIEF. (Broke down 20/12).
Sailed SNOWDROP to comply with my 1103A/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0115A/21).
Position 059° 30' N. 025° 53' W. Temporary repairs now effected. Proceeding towards Reykjavik, speed 9 knots.
(EMPIRE CHIEF 1145/21). (A.C.I.C. 1401N/21 to Admty.).

STUART QUEEN.
Following received from Cullercoats Radio begins:- Received 0225 G.M.T. from STUART QUEEN begins:-
I require immediately tug. I am distance 20, 022° from Cullercoats Radio. Ends.
(C.in C. Tosyth 0344/21).

STOKE CITY.
Your 1857A/20. Concur in ST. OLAVES towing STOKE CITY direct to Aberdeen. Request you will make necessary arrangements.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0949A/21 to A.C.O.S).
Have returned to Thurso for shelter until the weather moderates.
(ST. OLAVES 1115A/21).

EMPIRE MARLOW. (Lost propeller) 19/12).
My 1318N/21. FREEBOOTER sailed. Speed 11 knots. (A.C.I.C. 1532N/21).

ILLUSTRUOUS.
Cancel Admiralty's 1252A/26/11. ILLUSTRIOUS will be taken in hand at Birkenhead about 1/1.
C.in C. W.A. is requested to sail ILLUSTRIOUS as requisite and to provide the necessary escorts.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1820A/21).

M.L.146.
My 1631A/21. M.L.146 returned owing to engine trouble. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 2033A/21).

Shipping & Convoys.

F.N.83 A
My 1152/20. F.N.83 A postponed owing to fog. (F.O.Humber 1052A/21).
My 1201/15/12. Additional slow convoy F.N.83 A (CONSEQUENCE 11) Humber to Methil leaves Humber 22nd escorts WESTMINSTER, SLEIPNER.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1539/21).

P.Q.6.
In circumstances described by S.B.N.O. Archangel it appears unwise to send ships of P.Q.6 to Molotovsk unless the risk of

/them....

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

P.Q.6 -Contd.

them remaining in territorial waters during the Winter is accepted.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 1105C/21 to Admty.).
Following received LEDA from S.B.N.O. Archangel STALIN unable to locate P.Q. six and I can get no answer to my signal to convoy. Endeavour to communicate with Commodore by W/T and ask him for his position and inform me 1223C 21st. Request you will contact him on power.
(LEDA 1429C/21 to EDINBURGH).
Your 1105C/21. We do not wish ships to be tied up for the winter but until Russian agreement to use of Murmansk is received, vide my 1646A/12 and D. of S.T.'s 2227/19, every endeavour must be made to continue using Archangel. (A.C.N.S.T. 1456A/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).
Circumstances defined in your 1105C/21 are not understood and clarification is requested.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 2330C/21 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

H.G.76

Cancel my 1827A/20. Request you will sail VANOC to Milford to refuel. VANOC is subsequently to proceed to meet H.G.76.
(C.in C. W.A. 1151A/21 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Sailed VANOC in accordance with C.in C. W.A. 1151A/21 E.T.A. Milford Haven 0700A/22.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1740A/21).
Convoy has been followed continuously by S/M and/or F.W. aircraft since leaving Gibraltar and seems likely to remain so. Propose to shorten voyage as much as possible by proceeding home by most direct route.
(STORK 1500A/21 to C.in C. W.A.).
H.G.76. Report if you consider fuel situation satisfactory.
(C.in C. W.A. 1539A/21 to STORK).

F.S.81
F.S.82.

Amend my 1201/15/12.
F.S.81 ("Booty") cancelled.
F.S.82 ("Arena") will run as a slow convoy leaving Methil 1030/25 escorts VIVIEN, VORTIGEN. Time Table.
(C in C. Rosyth 1231 /21).

E.N.23.

E.N.23 cancalled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1233/21).

O.N.S.47.

Am at M.O.M.P. in R/T contact with U.S. Escort. Have never seen VULCAN whose position received by R/T at 1200A/21 is 059° 16' N. 017° 18' W. Course 265°, 4½ knots. Will lead U.S. Escort back to convoy. (BOADICEA 1301A/21).

/W.S.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.15. Request you will sail RESOLUTION for the Clyde as convenient to you to arrive not later than A.M/5/1.
(2) RESOLUTION will be required to sail with W.S.15 leaving about 7/1.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1304A/21 to C.in C. H.F.).

F.N.84. F.N.84 cancelled owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1336A/21).

P.S.21.
S.P.22. P.S.21 arrived S.P.22 not sailing.
(R.N.O. Shoreham 1405/21).

C.W.62. M.L.246 is to remain at Shoreham and act as A.A. guard to M.V's arriving from C.W.62 on Tuesday. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1417A/21).
My 2150A/19 and 1220A/20. C.W.62 postponed 24 hours owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore. 1638A/21).

E.N.22. E.N.22 proceeding by route G. Request following lights. (SWORD DANCE 1515/21 to A.C.O.S.).

F.N.83. Van of convoy F.N,83 anchored at B Six A Buoy. Intend to proceed at daylight.
(WOLSEY 1726A/21).

U.R.2. My 1259A/21.
A/C reported left convoy at 1315A/21 in 60° 05' N. 08° 55' W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1733A/21).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

0.24. Your 1936A/20. Instructions will be followed. Being ahead of schedule it is possible to arrive at 1000A/23 proceeding at 13 knots by night 2 knots by day after surfacing at dark 21st. (0.24 0055A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)
Your 0055A/21. Adhere strictly to time given in my 1336A/19. (F.O.C.N.A. 0906A/21 to 0.24).

SCOTTISH. Unless otherwise ordered intend to leave patrol at 0001/22nd proceeding coastwise. (SCOTTISH, 1145A/21 to F.O.C.N.A. (R) IMPERIALIST, ALOUETTE).

Vigo. Use by U/B's. (F.O.C.N.A. 1246A/21) See S/M's attacked.

Cable Repairs. Admty. 1249A/19. Intend to sail cable ship MIRROR escorted by a corvette on 23/12 to carry out these repairs. (F.O.C.N.A. 1248A/21 to Admty.)

P.39, P.36. (i) Report P.C. and S. of A. on crossing 043° N. (ii) P.39, onward route X, 043° 00' 011° 54' Y, 036° 00' 011° 00' Z, 350° Spartel 5 miles. (iii) P.36, onward route P, 045° 00' 011° 13' R. 036° 40' 010° 25', thence to Z. (iv) Proceed on surface at your discretion. (F.O.C.N.A. 1410A/21 to P.39 P.36).

Operation "Pantaloon". Sailing date 23/12. (200 Group 1545/21 to Air Min.) See Lion Copy.

H.G.77. As last of 7 ships loading bitter oranges at Spanish Port will not arrive at Gibraltar until 5/1 propose delaying sailing convoy until 6/1. (F.O.C.N.A. 1630A/21 to Admty.) Reply: 1313/22.

Casablanca Convoy. The following note in Spanish was passed to Boarding Officer from URUMEA. At Casablanca convoy of 20 ships being formed shortly sail for Marseilles escorted by warships. (IMPERIALIST, 1705A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

/SERAFIN.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic-Contd.

SERAFIN TOPIC. — Report graded B.2. states S.S. COZALLA has been at Algiers loading minerals since 16/12. She is due to leave on 20/12. If ship has not yet sailed, CLYDE may be used. (A.C.N.S. (F) 1825A/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

BLACK SWAN. EXMOOR. — BLACK SWAN and 5 Corvettes passing through Straits from Eastward. EXMOOR on U Patrol. (F.O.C.N.A. 1951/21 to FORTUNE).

South Atlantic.

Local Protection. — Your 1152A/20. Following is a corrected version of my 0950Z/19 (Begins)Amty. 907 from C. in C. S.A, your 1240A/18. (Requesting confirmation that C. in C. S.A's 1811/17 replied to A.M. 1809/14). Yes. (C. in C. S.A. 0002Z/21 to Admty.)

OMAHA. SOMERS. — A.M. 1155/13. OMAHA and SOMERS arrived Pernambuco 20/12 and will sail for Ascension Island patrol, returning Pernambuco. (D.O.D. (F) 1047A/21 to C. in C. S.A., R.A.S.A.D.)

Shipping Diversions. — Your 1439A/30/11. Intend initiating any necessary diversions to Cape-bound ships dispersed from O.S. convoys in accordance with A.M. 0001/1/5/41, Sec. 1, para 9 (1). (C. in C. S.A., 1153Z/21 to Admty.)

PERMIAN. — Overdue Shipping, my 2227Z/20 PERMIAN arrived Montevideo 21st. (S.O.I. Montevideo, 1237Z/21 to Admty., etc.)

Ships taking supplies to St. Helena and Ascension. — My 1831/7/11 as amended by my 1313/14/11 not to Admiralty. Restrictions may be temporarily removed but may have to be re-imposed in an emergency at short notice. (C. in C. S.A. 1515Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, General (R) Admty.)

/BADSWORTH.....

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South Atlantic-Contd.

BADSWORTH. — Intended to sail BADSWORTH a.m./22 to Bathurst for fuel thence leaving p.m./23 at S. of A. 16 knots by following route to Gibraltar. (a) 014° 00' N. 018° 12' W. (b) 018° 50' N. 019° 20' W. (c) 024° (?45' or 25')N. 017° 30' W. (d) 029° 00' N. 012° 40' W. (e) 033° 25' N. 010° 00' W. thence to base, E.T.A. 0800/28. (C. in C. S.A., 1825Z/21 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Convoys W.S.12ZA, 12ZB, 12ZM. — My 1049/20 para. 2. Transhipment is being effected so rapidly at Durban that if all goes well it is probable that Convoy will sail p.m. 23/12. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1919Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

ENGADINE. — Your 1820A/26/11. ENGADINE states aircraft on board are for Simonstown and Near East only, not for Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 1953Z/21 to Admty.)

W.S.15. — Yes either a Sloop or VANSITTART whom I am considering sending to Simonstown then for half yearly docking if situation permits. (C. in C. S.A. 2133Z/21 to Admty.)
Note. This message refers to A.M. 1636A/19 re Sloop to accompany W.S.15 to Cape.

RAMILLIES. W.S.14. O.S.13. — Arrivals 21/12 with W.S.14. RAMILLIES, CILICIA, VANSITTART, WILD SWAN, BRILLIANT, BEAUFORT, ENGADINE, HURWORTH, BRADWORTH. With O.S.13, VIMY, CLOVER, SOUTHERN GEM, BERGAMOT, EREBUS, SCARBOROUGH, ROBERTS, FRITILLERY, BRADFORD. (S.O.I. Freetown, 2315Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

Mediterranean.

URGE. UNIQUE. R. of P. — (i) URGE reports M/Vs escorted by 2 destroyers passed eastbound out of Straits noon 12th, 1 identified as "Garibaldi" Class, these successfully attacked by UTMOST 12 hours later. (ii) At 0840/14 on hearing H.E. northward URGE observed 2 battleships steering 207° range 12,000 yards escorted by 4 destroyers, attacked from port side, obtained speed from wing destroyer 170 revolutions no zigzag.

/(iii).....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

URGE.
UNIQUE.
R. of P.
- Contd.

(iii) At 0858B/14 in 037° 53' 015° 29' fired dispersed salvo A of Mark (VIII) 2 star torpedo depth set 18 and 20 feet, speed 40 knots, 90 track range 3000 yards, URGE course 297°, firing interval 14 seconds.
(iv) Two definite torpedo hits at correct running time and interval, first particularly powerful. Third hit reported by personnel forward and heard in UNIQUE 12 miles distant, this possible if speed reduced immediately by first two. Close counter attack with 40 charges, later a further 20 heard northward since concussions reverberated off-shore of Straits.
(v) At 0927/14 UNIQUE sighted 1 battleship and 1 destroyer in 37° 43' 15° 36' steering 125° speed 20. At 0940 URGE returned to periscope depth and sighted this battleship and 1 destroyer to S.E. steering 90°. Careful observation for 10 minutes showed only 1 destroyer manoeuvring at speed in position of attack. No other battleship could have passed East of URGE without detection.
(vi) Ref. 1535B/14 from V.A. Malta it is emphasized that 4 destroyers were with Battleships and no other Destroyers came from Messina during previous night or for 4 hours after attack. The second Destroyer referred to in para. (v) hunted UNIQUE and withdrew East at 24 knots with 1 other after 1000.
(vii) Submerged horizontal directional transmissions located at 7 shore plotted positions. These appeared to fix URGE with accuracy on 7 occasions during patrol. Detection by day resulted in schooners, E-boats and air R/C converging with accuracy on submarine.
(viii) At night similarly, aircraft flares in addition and shore stations burned 2 vertical red lights sweeping, when both stopped and directed on S/M this indicated contact and the hunt commenced.
(ix) At 0401/18 E-boat fired torpedo missing close ahead due to broad zigzag employed. Between 14th and 20th URGE forced down at night 20 times. (Capt. S.10, 0045B/21 to Capt. S.1.)

Enemy M/V.

Following has been read. No merchant vessel around one merchant vessel 38° 04' 20° 50' 060° 8 knots. (A/C using call sign B.7.G. 1025/21).

/Orders.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Orders for Striking Force.

My 1132/16. The object of striking force is the destruction of enemy submarines. They are to reinforce the convoy escort until required to hunt submarines. Subject to discretion of S.O. present, striking force should normally proceed without further orders to hunt any submarines reported within 25 miles of convoy. Striking force will be detailed by R.A. (D) Med. as required by C. in C. Med. They are to be sailed by same authority that sails the convoy and are to confirm to sailing orders of convoy until detached, when they will come under the orders of C. in C. Med. Fleet direct. (C. in C. Med., 1201B/21 to F.O.C. (D) Med., N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.O. Force I).

Enemy Sailing Boat.

Following has been read. One sailing boat 32.46 N., 24.24 E. 360° 4, shall we attack?
(A/C using call sign K7TM, 1300/21).
Following has been read. N.R.1. Attack.
(Med. A/C using Call sign 6FJ, 1325/21 to A/C using call sign K7T).

Defence of Middle East.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. 216 to C. in C. India, repeated C. in C. E.I., M.E. and Med.
Your 17863/G dated 14/11.
Position has altered considerably recently owing to favourable development of situation in Russia and Libya and to outbreak of war in Far East.
Events are moving too fast to enable us to appreciate what forces will be required or be available for defence of Middle East in 1942, but a joint appreciation will be made here as soon as possible. (1st S.L., 1407A/21 to C. in C. Med.)

Tobruk Minesweeping.

Summary for week ending 20/12.
Monday. ? (Group missing), mine probably acoustic self detonated close inshore outside harbour.
Tuesday. Minelaying mainly evening and early next morning, 7 parachute mines reported in or near harbour, 7 exploded on shore, 2 landed failing to explode.
Wednesday. 2 Red 2 Blue magnetic and 3 possible Acoustic, swept in and near harbour. All suspected Sammy owing to extreme sensitiveness.
Thursday. I.C. type mine demolished on shore. 1 in good condition left for examination.
Friday. 2 Red mines laid Thursday night swept. P.M. Light minelaying raid, 4 exploded ashore, 1 dropped in harbour.
(B.S.N.O. Tobruk, 1610B/21 to Admty.).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-Contd.

Malta Air Report.

20th, Alert 1503 to 1529 hours, approx 12 Ju. 88's escorted 6 Macchis. Bombs sea, no interception.
21st, 4 Alerts, 0655 hours, 12 unidentified Fighters 1 Ju. 88 crossed coast, bombs land, no damage. 0923 hours, 20 Fighters, 4 Bombers Fighters Macchi 202's and Me. 109's bombs land, slight damage barracks and house, 3 civilians 2 soldiers killed.
1105 Hours. 3 R/C Aircraft crossed coast great height. 1312, 20 Fighters approached possibly to intercept delivery 13 Beaufighters and Maryland, no interception. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1630/21).

Torpedo carrying by Wellingtons.

A Wellington aircraft has been converted to carry two 18" Mark 12 torpedoes with air rudders and drum control gear. One successful run has been made, torpedo being dropped from 70 feet at 140 m.p.h. Only difficulty so far encountered is liability of air rudders to break off after one or two hours in the air. Request early information on possibility of increasing strength of shearing pins. Considered of highest importance to press on with minimum delay development of use of torpedo by these long range aircraft. Their use will allow us to attack enemy forces and merchant shipping in almost any part of the central Mediterranean. (C. in C. Med., 1935B/21 to Admty.)

Defence of Gibraltar Bay.

F.O.C. N.A. 1930A/29/9 para. 5. Request early information on effective lethal 5-pound charges. (C. in C. Med. 1937B/21 to Admty.)

TRUANT. R. of P.

2 Merchant ships entered Argostoli from west dawn 14/12 none observed leaving. 11/12, Large tanker torpedoed entering Suda Bay and believed sunk. S/M will require to dock for minor repairs to A/S. (TRUANT 1947B/21 to Capt. S.1.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Persian Gulf. Anticipated arrivals of ships at Persian Gulf ports from all areas.
(D.S.T., 0359A/21 to Consul, Basra, P.S.T.O. India.) See Lion Copy.

Convoy B.M.9 A. 0830Z/21. VARSOVA, RAJULA, DEVONSHIRE, ETHIOPIA, LANCASHIRE, all carrying troops and stores for Singapore. Sailing order.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0836Z/21 to Admty. etc.)
Departure GLASGOW, SONAVATI escorting B.M.9 A.
(S.O.I. Bombay 0910Z/21 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N. S.O.(I)'s Colombo and Singapore.)

Diego Garcia. Request early report by signal whether Diego Garcia is suitable for use by aircraft carriers and large cruisers, allowing for a draught of 29 feet and 24 feet respectively. At what state of the tide can they enter?
(Hydrographer 1103A/21 to CLIVE (R) F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Middle East Defence. Chiefs of Staff No. (India) 10 (as Mediterranean 1407A/21.)
(1st S.L. 1406A/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Towage of F/Dock. Your 1018/19 para.2. (a). No parachutes or personnel have arrived yet from outside source. (b) All (local?) preparations will be complete by 15/1.
(S.N.O.P.G. 1450Z/21 to C. in C. E.I.)

Troops for Malaya. Ref. our 59407 cipher (M.O.I.) 20/12. Chiefs of Staff wish diversion of Brigade group to be made to Malaya if possible.
(W.O., 2330/21 to C. in C. India.)

China.

ENDEAVOUR. Admiralty 2151/4. ENDEAVOUR is fit for service ordered.
(A.S., Singapore 0302Z/21 to Admiralty, C. in C. E.F., R.A. Malaya, C. in C. Med.)

/offer ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Offer of light Tank Squadron.

Offer gratefully accepted. Your 0108/20.
(G.O.C. Malaya 0306/21 to C. in C. India.)

Removal of German internees.

Your 265 to F.O. I do not anticipate difficulty in providing shipping for removal of German internees provided India will accept them. Suggest Dutch authorities should lose no time in moving them to south Sumatra or Java until definite arrangements are made. Please keep C.Z.M. informed.
(C. in C. Eastern Fleet 0433Z/21 to C.G. Batavia)

Situation, Malaya.

Sitrep 11, 1630 hours G.M.T. 20/12. Perak.
At conference between G.O.C. Malaya Command and Comd. 3 Corps it was decided while adhering to general policy of withdrawal behind R.Perak to hold enemy west of river as long as possible without permitting forces to become inextricably committed.
Singapore. H.M.S. LIPIS arrived today with detachments 2 Loyals and S.S. Police from Area Miri Seria of whom all safely evacuated.
Sarawak. Raid on Kuching 19/12 carried out by 15 heavy bombers and 1 seaplane. Slight damage to aerodeome now being repaired. 22 civilians killed 84 wounded. Borneo Company Benzine Stores destroyed.
General. Japanese naval aircraft are dropping small flare bombs probably in strings of 6 or 8 with bursting charge in nose ignited by percussion striker. On hitting ground they explode giving off flash and producing smoke cloud. Chocolate coloured stains are found nearby. More information being sought about these bombs which should not be touched.
(G.O.C. Malaya, 0450/21 to W.O. etc.)

BANKA (mined 10/12)

My 0501/13 and R.A. Malaya 1201/13. 6 Malay Ratings succeeded in landing on Island Pulo Tinggi. It now seems certain that BANKA was sunk by one of our own mines off Johore 10th. Loss is being announced at Singapore today Sunday.
(C. in C. E.F. 0453Z/21 to Admty.)

/Hong Kong ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Hong Kong.

From Fervour. Sitrep to 1030 hours 21/12. Enemy attacking westward across Mount Nicholson through Middle Gap. Our troops holding approx line Kaifing - Bennets Hill - Middle Gap - Blue Pool Gap - Leighton Hill and Line Red Hill - Stone Hill - Repulse Bay Hotel. Troops very tired after long day's fighting and very wet cold nights. Although little of Hong Kong still in our hands, unable to reach food and ammunition store as position surrounded. Transport facility difficult. Royal Canadian Rifles attacking from (?Blue) Stream area through Tytam Tuk toward enemy rear but progress slow. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0501Z/21 to Admty., C. in C. E.F.)

For S. of State from Governor, Hong Kong (begins) Military situation is now as follows :- Enemy hold key position on hills and G.O.C. advises that we are very rapidly approaching a point at which only remaining resistence open to us will be to hold for short time only a small pocket in centre of city leaving bulk of fixed population to be overrun. I feel it will be my duty to ask terms before this position is reached. If (?H.M.) G. feels able to give assent (?please) cable single word "Ability". (Ends)
(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0521Z/21 to Admty.)

By all means in your power including gunfire endeavour to wreck oil installations and storages.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1542A/21 to G.O.C. Hong Kong.)

Commodore Hong Kong 0521Z/21. Hong Kong cannot now be heard but may be still able to receive.
(C. in C. E.F., 1548Z/21 to Admty.)

My 1548Z/21. Communication with Hong Kong has been re-established.
(C. in C. E.F. 1744Z/21 to Admty.)

Movements Singapore.

Singapore arrival Neth: Sub: K.11, departure EXPRESS and Neth: Sub: K.12.
(S.O.I. Singapore, 0957Z/21 to Admty. amended 0237Z/22.)

/Dispositions ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Dispositions. Dispositions of Allied ships in Far Eastern area.
A. British. 21/12.
(i) DRAGON, DURBAN and VAMPIRE off West Coast Sumatra escorting due Padang 25th.
(ii) DANAE, JUPITER, ELECTRA, ENCOUNTER, STRONGHOLD, TENEDOS, THANET, TEVIOT BANK and Dutch ship JANSSENS concentrating Singapore.
(iii) Dutch Submarine O.16 overdue. K.11 and K (corrupt group) at Singapore. K.12, K.17, O.19, and O.20 on patrol in South China sea.
(iv) EXPRESS operating in Malacca Strait.
(v) SCOUT working from ?Cebu.
B. Dutch. 19/12.
(i) Cruiser DE RUYTER and K.10 12 Sourabaya. Sloop SOEMBA leaves for Rhio Strait 21st.
(ii) Cruiser JAVA and Destroyer VAN NES at Batavia.
(iii) U.S. Submarine SALMON at Tarakan.
(iv) Cruiser TROMP, Destroyer and Minesweeper PIET HEIN, Destroyer BANCKERT in Carimata Strait.
(v) Submarines K.No 14, K.No.15 and K.No.16 East of Anambais.
(vi) Destroyer KORTENAER in Celebes Sea.
C. United States. 20/12.
(i) Cruisers HOUSTON, BOISE, Destroyers ALDEN, EDSALL, EDWARDS, WHIPPLE, PARROTT, STEWART, BARKER, JOHN D.FORD, J.P. JONES, POPE. Destroyer Tender BLACK HAWK, Submarine Tender CANOPUS at Sourabaya.
(ii) Cruiser NEW ORLEANS at Makassar. Cruiser MARBLEHEAD, Oilers TRINITY, PECOS, Auxiliary GOLD STAR, on passage to Soemba. 265° Destroyer BULMER, Submarine SEA DRAGON on passage to Sourabaya.
(iii) Gunboats ASHEVILLE, TULSA, M/S LARK, M/S WHIPPOORWILL at Balik Papan. Submarine Tender HOLLAND and Patrol Boat ISABEL on passage to Sourabaya.
(iv) Seaplane Tender CHILDS at Manado.
(v) Destroyer PRESTON and Aircraft tender HERON left Tarakan 14th.
(vi) Destroyers PEARY, PILLSBURY, River Gunboat LUZON, Submarine SEADRAGON, Mindanao; Submarine Rescue Vessel PIGEON, M/S PENGUIN and about 25 submarines at Manila or operating in vicinity (?of Skagoshima). 2 large submarines off Indo China coast.
(C. in C. E.F., 1040Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Intelligence. (1) (?Japanese) transport full of troops reported sunk Quinhon Point 013° 43' N. 109° 1' E. 19/12. (2) 5000 reinforcements from Tongking being sent Singora by sea. Date and place departure not stated. (3) Force blockading Hong Kong 20/12 2 cruisers ABUKUMA (?KUMA) class 2 destroyers 2 torpedo boats. (4) C. in C. U.S. Asiatic Fleet reports (?relisble information) from Davao indicates 12 transports one cruiser 3 (?desyroyers in landing operations on 21st. (5) Japanese KANA KANA (?KATA KANA) call sign changed 20th Dec. (C/S Singapore 1351Z/21 to Admty. C. in C. U.S.

/Asiatic ...

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China - contd.

Enemy Intelligence contd.

Asiatic Fleet, B.A.D., C. in C. E.I., C. in C. Pacific Fleet, A.C. N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

Removal of Oil from Balik Papan.

My 2013A/16 and your 1030Z/17 para.8. Request names of ships detailed, quantity embarked, and destinations may be signalled.
(D.T.D. 1608A/21 to C. in C. E.F.)

Singapore, reinforcements, evacuation, aircraft.

Following from Chiefs of Staff No. F.E.62.
1. After consultation with Dutch you should recommend what land reinforcements are necessary in Java and Sumatra in present conditions and in the event of a Japanese occupation of Singapore.
2. Malaya's 27178 dated 19/12 (N.T.in W.R.) Consider a measure of obligatory evacuation desirable. Further telegram follows which will deal with broader issue of evacuation of non service as well as service families.
3. We are representing urgently to U.S. authorities that 90 U.S. aircraft now arrived at Brisbane should be sent to Singapore.
4. You should make recommendations as to the most urgent requirements of the N.E.I. air forces repeating your reply to J.S.M., Washington.
(W.O. 2230/21 to C. in C. F.E.)

America and West Indies.

HOEGH MERCHANT.

Norwegian, 4858 tons, from San Francisco to Manila, sunk by enemy action, exact cause unknown, probably near Honolulu about 11/12. Crew reported safe.
(D.S. 838, 21/12.)

ISLA DE TENERIFE.

Spanish, 5115 tons, arrived New York from Barcelona on 3/12, has been seized by Federal agents on grounds that ship has undeclared cargo on board, including oil and radio parts.
(D.S., 838, 21/12.)

/ARCHER ...

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

ARCHER. ARCHER will leave Norfolk p.m./23 arriving Jamaica a.m./28. Propose ship should leave Jamaica p.m./5/1 arriving Norfolk p.m./9. She will then be ready to sail for U.K. p.m./11. (B.A.R.M. 1100R/21.)
War Reg. Note:- C. in C. A. and W.I. 15420/22 says "concur".

U/Boats. B.A.D., 1129R/21. See U-Boat Campaign.

PROTEUS
NEREUS D.N.I. Ottawa 1846Z/19 and S.O.(I) Kingston (Jamaica) 2333R/20. Non arrival at Portland (Maine) of British PROTEUS and NEREUS, both carrying bauxite from St. Thomas, suggests possibility of sabotage. There is no confirmation of raider or U-boat activity in this area and unless this is evident routeing via Florida Coast, which logically should be applied to all shipping, does not appear desirable. U.S. Authorities at St. Thomas should be requested to make searching enquiries into possibility of sabotage. B.A.D. pass to Portland (Maine.)
(C. in C. A.W.I. 11320/21 to R.N.O. St. Thomas.)
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1846Z/19. Can you suggest any explanation for non-arrival of PROTEUS and NEREUS?
(D.T.D. 1918A/21 to C. in C. A.W.I.)
Your 1918A/21. See my 11320/21. (C. in C. A.W.I. 09320/22.)

Washington Report. Washops 11. (i) Philippine Is. Japanese are now reported to be using Legaspi, Vigan and Aparri as bases for fighter aircraft. Considerable Japanese activity at Davao where U.S. 101st division is in contact with enemy.
(ii) Wake. Island has had two further air raids. Considerable damage. Only one 3-inch A/A battery left in action.
(iii) U.S. Pacific coast. Following attacks by enemy submarines on U.S. Merchant vessels have been reported in the last forty-eight hours. Off Columbia River 046° 30' N: S.S. DOHENEY, S.S. SAINT CLAIR by gunfire. Off Cape Mendocino 040° 30' N: KTUI (SAMOA) by gunfire, KDTJ (EMIDIO) hit by torpedo and gunfire. Submarine was attacked by aircraft with depth charges which failed to explode. Crew abandoned ship which was last seen with deck awash. Off Santa Cruz 037° 00' N: S.S. AGWIWORLD by gunfire. Most of these attacks were carried out at night.
Admiralty pass to Air Min. and W.O.
(J.S.M., Washington 1321R/21 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - contd.

H.X.166. Task Unit 4.1.4 escort H.X.166, PLUNKETT, 5 ships.
(Opnav. 1330/22 to Admty.)

Washington Report. Washops 12.
(i) Philippine Is. Air R/C shows one cruiser, 3 destroyers and 12 transports in Gulf of Davao. U.S.11th Division sharply engaged along north shore of Lingayen Gulf. A report dated 22/12 states that 70 to 80 enemy transports are off Lingayen Gulf. Scattered bombing over Luzon; disused airfields at Del Monte heavily bombed.
(ii) Hawaii. Position of S/M contact depth charged off Pearl Harbour on night of 20/12; this position was marked by an oil slick on 21/12. Another S/M contact south Oahu last night.
(iii) U.S. Pacific Coast. Reference Washops 11 para.3. Further details are now available of S/M attack on S.S. SAMOA, now arrived in San Francisco. SAMOA reports being attacked by S/M on the surface on 18/12 in 041° 09' N. 124° 37' W. 4 rounds were fired followed by a torpedo fired at close range off port bow believed to have passed under ship and exploded close in on starboard quarter showering the ship with fragments. SAMOA had used W/T on 17/12 which may have revealed her position to S/M.
(J.S.M. Washington 1515R/22 to Admty.)

SURCOUF
MIMOSA
ACONITE
ALYSSE
Free French Submarine SURCOUF and F.N.F.L. armed merchant vessels MIMOSA, ACONITE, ALYSSE sailed Halifax 1600Z/22 for St. Johns N.F. under orders of Admi. Muselier in MIMOSA. Ships will carry out exercises off Halifax then proceed by most direct route. Estimated speed 11 knots. R.C.A.F. bombing restrictions lightened (?arranged.)
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1646Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

Communications Your 1147R/18. Requirements are :-
A. General Dispositions. From here: Spenavo can obtain and pass to Opnav all information he may require. From you: A weekly signal as in Opnav's 1655/16 meets our requirements.
B. Daily Movements in adjacent areas. From here: Daily signal of British movements in or near U.S.A. Atlantic area and in Pacific East of Malay barrier is passed through Spenavo.
From you: We require similar information so that U.S.A. and British Naval Forces may be able to co-operate should enemy forces be reported.

/2 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

21.12.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Communications contd.

2. Presumed C. in C. Eastern Fleet is fully informed by C. in C. Asiatic Fleet of his movements and vice versa.
3. Understood the whole subject will be discussed in near future but in the meanwhile it is desired that the above requirements should be met.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1752A/21 to B.A.D.)

NEWCASTLE.

Bermuda departure in accordance with my 1742Q/20.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1823Q/21 to Admty.)

Australia.

LE TRIOMPHANT.

F.N.F.L. London requests you will comply with C. in C. E.F. 0433Z/19. Authorities will be informed of programme. Dutch Authorities have agreed to your visit to Batavia.
(A.C.N.B. 1056Z/21 to LE TRIOMPHANT.)

Marangi.

My 0700Z/20. Further R/C Marangi reveals 8 double float seaplanes patrolling over island. Dilli aerodrome now under occupation of Australian independent company.
(A.C.N.B. 1501Z/21 to Admty., C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Admiralty War Diaries

1-10-41 to 31-12-41

cont'd on Reel K-14-B

ENDING OF

REEL K-13-B

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

admiralty War diaries 1-10-41 to 31-12-41 cont'd from Reel K-12-B cont'd on Reel K-14-B	

ONI

DATE: 17 April 1946

MACH. NO. 475

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: Cunningham Klaus